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CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART V.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RISPETING THE

AFFAIRS OF KOWEIT.

1903.

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CONFIDENTIAL.**Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Koweit.****PART V.****No. 1.***India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 1.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 31st December, relative to Koweit affairs.

*India Office, January 1, 1903.***Inclusion in No. 1.***Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, December 31, 1902.

IT is reported by O'Conor that the Porto confirms the news that Amir of Nejd is approaching Koweit. The Vizier was informed by O'Conor that we would defend Koweit. Instructions have been sent to the Vali to prevent hostilities.

No. 2.*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 2, 1903.)*

Sir,

Admiralty, December 31, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter dated the 21st ultimo, from the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's ship "Cossack," reporting on affairs in the neighbourhood of Koweit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Commander Cartwright to Rear-Admiral Drury.

Sir,

IN continuation of my General letter of the 18th October, 1902, I have the honour to report that :—

1. Two gun-boats not being required in the Shat-al-Arab, I ordered His Majesty's ship "Redbreast" to Muscat, to cruise for the suppression of the Slave Trade, in accordance with your Memorandum of the 24th September, 1902. She sailed from Fao on the 30th October, and arrived at Muscat on the 3rd November, from whence she started her cruising on the 6th November, returning to Muscat on the 11th November. I inclose her letter of proceedings, and also a letter concerning slave cruising at this period of the year. As the utility of further cruising is doubtful, I am telegraphing to you on the subject.

2. His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" arrived at Bussorah with witnesses from Koweit on the 20th October, and returned with them to Koweit on the 19th November. After landing the witnesses and placing the captured dhows in temporary charge of Sheikh Mubarak, she sailed for Bushire on the 11th November, arriving on the 12th November, sailing again for Bombay on the 19th November.

3. I proceeded to Koweit on the 12th November, to survey the shoal which "Lapwing" found had formed off Ras-al-Ary, and returned here on the 19th November. A special report will be forwarded concerning this shoal when the plan is completed. The shoal extends fully a mile outside the position marked on the chart.

4. His Majesty's ship "Assaye" arrived at Bushire on the 18th November, and sailed for the Shat-al-Arab on the 19th November. Letters of proceedings are inclosed.

5. Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball, the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, returned to Bushire, from Shiraz, on the 1st November, and proceeded in Royal and Imperial Majesty's ship "Lawrence" on a cruise to Bahrein and the Pirate Coast on the 20th November.

6. On the 18th November, Sheikh Mubarak received a letter from Abdul Aziz-bin-Saood to say that, after a long engagement, he had defeated Bin Raschid, the Emir of Nejd, at a place called Dellum, which is about one day's march south of Riadh. Bin Raschid lost over 250 killed, and was pursued in a north-westerly direction for five days by Abdul Aziz, who captured many horses, camels, tents, &c. Bin Raschid is now supposed to be at Ghassib [?], which is about eleven days' march north-west of Riadh. Abdul Aziz, the son of Abdul Rahman-bin-FeySal, captured Riadh last January, since which time he, his brother, Mahomet, and his father, have been collecting their forces. Abdul Rahman, who is the brother of Abdullah-bin-FeySal, the last of the Wahaba Emirs, is most friendly with the Sheikh of Koweit, with whom he was living up to January last, and if Bin Raschid, the present Emir of Nejd, is entirely crushed, the position of Koweit will be much strengthened, for it is doubtful if the Turks would ever attempt to interfere with that place if they knew that the Arabs in Nejd would support Koweit, as it would probably jeopardize their position at El Hassa and Katif.

7. Mahomed-bin-Saood, the second son of Abdul Rahman-bin-FeySal, has lately been at Koweit, but left for Riadh about the 6th November. Mubarak, while owning that Mahomed had come north with the object of securing the assistance of various Arab tribes, denies that he personally gave him any reinforcements. This assertion on the Sheikh's part is doubtful, as the townspeople declare that Mahomed not only received a considerable force of riflemen, but actually attacked the Shummar tribe, who own allegiance to Bin Raschid, and brought the looted camels, &c., into Jehara (west end of Koweit Harbour). Although Mubarak has been warned by the Political Resident not to take any part in the present quarrel, it is likely that his sympathy with Abdul Rahman-bin-FeySal will be shown more in an active than a passive manner, for if his enemy, the Emir of Nejd, gets the best of this quarrel, he will most probably again turn his attention to Koweit.

8. The health of the ship's company remains good.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. G. CARTWRIGHT,
Commander and Senior Officer, Persian Gulf.

No. 3.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 1st January, relative to a report that the Amir of Nejd is in the neighbourhood of Koweit.

India Office, January 2, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

January 1, 1903.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated the 28th December :—

"Amir of Nejd is reported in a telegram from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to have arrived within a distance of twelve hours from Koweit. Other reports have also reached me from Koweit that he had entered the territory of the Sheikh, but had been driven back; also that the Sheikh had left Koweit to repel him. But, so far as these reports indicate the Amir's presence in person, their truth appears to me to be doubtful."

No. 4.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 4.)

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 4, 1903.

MY telegram No. 146 of the 30th December: Koweit.

His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs as follows, under date the 2nd January:—

"Forte's statement that Amir of Nejd had defeated Bin Saoud is not, I think, correct. Amir's attack on Riadh failed, and all he did was to raid a hostile tribe while returning. An officer was sent by the Vali to communicate order to return home; this would seem to have had an effect as the Amir, according to the most recent information, has retired to a considerable distance. Yusuf, under the pretence of a journey to Mecca, has joined the Amir."

No. 5.

Count Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, January 5, 1903.)

(No. 67. Confidential.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I received a visit to-day from Ahmed-el-Atman, a confidential man of the Sheikh of Koweit, who had previously come to Bussorah in charge of the Koweit witnesses against Yussuf-el-Ibrahim, brought here by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing." He informed me that he had been sent by Sheikh Mubarak to carry his reply to various telegrams and letters from the Vali of Bussorah ordering him to send his witnesses up for examination, but that this reply was to be shown to me first, and not to be presented to the Vali unless I approved of its tenour.

On perusing the letter, I found that after some lines of invective against Yussuf-el-Ibrahim, the Sheikh stated that the witnesses had already been sent to Bussorah and had given their depositions before the British Consul, so there was

nothing more to be said. He concluded by accusing the Vali of being actuated by spite against himself.

I told Ahmed-el-Atman that I thought it would have been better for the Sheikh to have confined himself to informing the Vali that the witnesses had been sent to depose before the Turkish judicial authorities on certain conditions which he, the Sheikh, considered essential to their safety, and that as the Vali had declined to accept those conditions they had been forced to return, and could not again be sent up. Mubarek's opinion of Yussuf was already well known, and it seemed to me a pity to embitter his relations with the Vali by a charge of personal malice.

He replied that under these circumstances he would not deliver the letter, but would return to Koweit and report to the Sheikh what I had said. Another point on which he was charged to ask my advice was regarding the manner of addressing the Sheikh which the Vali employed, viz., as "Mubarek Pasha, Kaimakam of Koweit." Ought he not to take this up?

I replied that there was nothing new in this form of address, which had always been employed by successive Valis in writing to the Sheikh, and that I did not think that there was any pressing need at this particular moment to challenge their right to make use of it, and that the Sheikh ought not to do so without instructions. At the same time he should do nothing himself, by signature or otherwise, to indorse the title given to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 6.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 5, 1903.)

(No. 570.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 30, 1902.

WITH reference to my dispatch No. 529 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me yesterday that he understood from the Grand Vizier that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim and the Sheikh of Koweit's two nephews, who were all mixed up in the filibustering expedition of last September from Dorn, would be expelled from the neighbourhood of Bussorah.

Upon my questioning his Excellency more precisely, he seemed vague as to the precise terms of his Highness' communication, and I said I would ask the Grand Vizier to be good enough to show me the orders he had sent to Bussorah.

Tewlik Pasha then proceeded to inform me, in connection with this question, that news had just been received that the Amir of Nejd, Ibn Rashid, had defeated Bin Saood, and was advancing with his troops upon Zobeir and threatening Koweit, but that the Grand Vizier would be able to give me fuller information.

On calling upon his Highness, he informed me that he could not ask the Council of Ministers to approve of the expulsion of Yusuf Ibrahim and his associates until he received the reports of the Vali of Bussorah. They were with the Minister of the Interior, and he had requested Tewlik Pasha to procure them and to make a careful précis of their contents, so that he could present the question to his colleagues at an early date. He had, however, taken upon himself at once to instruct the Vali to discover and severely punish all persons who had taken part in this expedition. He knew that it had cost the life of a British sailor and that two others had been wounded, and although he believed that the occurrence took place outside Turkish waters, he recognized that Ottoman territory should not be made the base for an attack upon Koweit, and he hoped to be able to tell me soon that Yusuf Ibrahim and the Sheikh of Koweit's nephews had been expelled from Bussorah.

I said that I could not undertake to say that my Government would be satisfied with this reparation, but that if it were not given very soon I would make other demands which might not be so agreeable, and I therefore urged his Highness to consider the matter very seriously.

The Grand Vizier then went on to say that he had received news that Ibn Rashid, the Amir of Nejd, was advancing upon Zobeir and threatening Koweit. He had immediately telegraphed to the Vali of Bussorah, without even waiting to communicate with the Sultan, to remind the Vali that the Ottoman Government were bound in virtue of an agreement with His Majesty's Government to respect the status of

Koweit, and that he was to take immediate steps to prevent the Amir attacking that place.

I thanked his Highness for the energy he had shown, and expressed the sincere hope that his instructions would have the desired effect, as otherwise there might be serious complications, inasmuch as His Majesty's Government would protect the Sheikh of Koweit from attack.

I did not enter into a discussion as to how far Ibn Rashid's movements had been encouraged or abetted by the Ottoman Government, as I felt sure that this was a question which had been secretly handled by the Palace, and of which substantial proof would be very difficult, but I tried to convince his Highness that it was a grave business, and I have little doubt that he reported in this sense to the Sultan.

I had had no news of the progress of hostilities between Ibn Rashid and Bin Saood since the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 183, Secret, of the 14th instant, reporting that Saood had defeated Ibn Rashid, until I received to-day Mr. Wratislaw's telegram of the 27th instant, of which I gave the substance to your Lordship in my telegram No. 145, confirming the Porte's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 7.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 7th January, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, January 7, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

January 7, 1903.

YOUR telegram of the 8th December.

Telegram from Wratislaw communicated by Keniball on the 3rd January reports the Amir of Nejd to have gone home.

No. 8.

Cousal Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, January 12, 1903.)

(No. 68.)

Sir,

Bussorah, December 9, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that five days ago Bedouins, stated, I believe with truth, to belong to Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit, attacked herds belonging to Zobeir at four hours' distance from that town. They carried off a number of camels and sheep, many of the latter being the property of the Nakib of Bussorah.

During the skirmish which accompanied this incident, Mubarek-el-Atbi was wounded in the leg by a bullet. This man is a malcontent relation of Sheikh Mubarek, who makes common cause with Yussuf-el-Ibrahim and the Sheikh's nephew. He was engaged in the abortive expedition to Koweit which was encountered by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," and has joined with the Amir's Representative, Khalid-el-Own this summer in organizing the raids on Koweit flocks, which I have already reported to your Excellency.

The captured camels and sheep are said to have been taken to Koweit. The inhabitants of Zobeir have presented a Petition to the Vali asking for redress.

It is a matter for regret that this incident should have occurred after your Excellency's representations to the Porte against the raids from Zobeir, of which I had

sent Sheikh Mubarek word, and at the same time told his messenger that we could not countenance any reprisals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 9.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 6, 1903.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 570 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me yesterday that the Grand Vizier had, after the Council of the day before yesterday, instructed the Minister of the Interior to order the Vali of Bussorah to expel Yusuf Ibrahim and the two delinquent nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit from the neighbourhood of Bussorah. I subsequently ascertained from the Grand Vizier that these instructions had been sent.

I have already reported to your Lordship that, apart from this reparation in connection with the attempted filibustering expedition against Koweit of the 3rd September, the Vali had been instructed to discover and punish all persons mixed up in this affair.

If these orders are duly executed, and I propose to instruct His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to report to me on this point, I have no doubt that the local effect will be satisfactory, and, with your Lordship's approval, I propose to wait for further information before deciding upon the necessity or expediency of demanding the recall of the Vali.

I have, however, thought it well, upon being informed yesterday of the action taken by the Grand Vizier, to state to his Highness that I could not answer for it that this would be sufficient reparation for the outrage attempted and the loss of life, but that I would refer the question to your Lordship.

Some credit, perhaps, should be given to the Sublime Porte for the energetic steps they took to prevent Ibn Rashid advancing upon Koweit, as reported in Mr. Consul Wratislaw's telegram No. 77, repeated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 1 of the 4th January.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 10.

Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 13th instant relative to Koweit, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a further despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,† reporting that instructions have been sent to the Vali of Bussorah to expel from the neighbourhood of that place Yusuf Ibrahim and the two nephews of Sheikh Mubarek, who were implicated in the attempted raid on Koweit.

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if the Secretary of State for India concurs, to approve the language held by Sir N. O'Conor to the Grand Vizier, as reported in his Excellency's despatches No. 570 of the 30th December and No. 4 of the 6th January, and his proposal that the question of demanding the recall of the Vali of Bussorah should be deferred for the present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* Also to Admiralty, *mutatis mutandis*.

† No. 9.

No. 11.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 16.)

Admiralty, January 14, 1903.

Sir,
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Secretary of State that the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station has reported that the two dhows captured by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing" have been destroyed by the "Assaye" in the Persian Gulf, outside the three-mile limit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 12.

Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 16.)

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 16, 1903.

KOWEIT raid: I received yesterday from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah the following telegram, dated the 10th January:

"I have reported by post, 8th January, that Vali called on me and informed me that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim had left Bussorah. His Excellency proposed that the two nephews should be settled on a small estate which they possess two miles above Bussorah, on the Shat-al-Arab, at a place called Guerdilan.

I think that, as regards Yusuf, who at present has only left voluntarily, and may return, a sentence of exile should be published against him, and that, as regards the two nephews, Guerdilan is too close, and they should at least be expelled from Bussorah vilayet."

Should I make further representations in the above sense?

An Imperial Irade would be required before the sentence of exile advocated by Mr. Wratislaw could be issued, and the Sultan would probably reply that sentence could not be pronounced on Yusuf and Sheikh's nephews without a trial.

No. 13.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 7, 1903.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of Koweit I have the honour to report that on the 31st ultimo the Minister for Foreign Affairs communicated to this Embassy through the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs a telegram from the Vali of Bussorah, dated the 25th December, stating that, "There is absolutely no instance of our natives making any attack in our waters upon any vessel whatever, native or foreign, coming from Mohammerah or the sea of [undecypherable], and all allegations or complaints to this effect are devoid of foundation."

The Vali goes on to say that if "the statements of the British Ambassador" refer to the incident of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," he had already reported all details to the Minister of the Interior, and had pointed out that the witnesses demanded from Koweit did not come, and that when brought they were not sent to the office of the "Juge d'Instruction."

The communication of this telegram was evidently intended as a reply to the verbal representations I had made on the subject, and I consequently caused Mr. Block to leave an *avis-mémoire* with the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the 3rd instant, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, briefly recapitulating the facts of the incident and my action in the matter, and stating that while I could not undertake that the expulsion of Yusuf Ibrahim and the two nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit would be considered satisfactory reparation by His Majesty's Government, I had urged it upon the Porte as likely to smooth matters.

I also reminded the Porte of their engagement with His Majesty's Government to respect the status of Koweit, and not to allow the Ottoman dominions to be made the basis of hostile expeditions against Koweit.

On the same day another telegram from the Vali of Bussorah to the Grand Vizier was communicated to this Embassy, asserting that "the English are seeking occasion for interference, and are stirring up Mubarak-es-Sabah to make a raid upon Zobeir, and are constantly trying to create questions."

To this I replied through Mr. Block that as regards the Vali's statement that His Majesty's Government had been stirring up the Sheikh of Koweit to make a raid on Zobeir, I could give it the most absolute denial, and could only qualify the Vali's assertion as entirely untrue. I therefore requested the Porte either to supply me with confirmation of this statement, or to reprimand the Vali for making false accusations against a friendly Power.

Since the above communications passed further telegrams from the Vali of Bussorah have been communicated to His Majesty's Embassy, the details of which are given in Mr. Block's Memorandum No. 6 of this day's date, inclosed herewith. The assertion now is that in connection with his feud against Ibn Rashid, who is returning to his country, the Sheikh of Koweit is planning an attack on the Shammar Arabs and intends to move on Zobeir.

I venture to call attention to the instructions sent by the Sultan to the Vali of Bussorah to "dissuade the Sheikh of Koweit from any hostile action against the Shammar or Ibn Rashid," which seem to imply that His Majesty considers Koweit to be within the Vali's sphere of influence.

In case, however, that there should be any foundation for the above statements regarding the intentions of the Sheikh of Koweit, I think it might be well to repeat the warning to him which I had the honour to suggest in my despatch No. 397 of the 9th September last.

I have reported the Vali's statement to Mr. Consul Wratislaw by telegraph, and have asked whether he knows anything of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Aide-mémoire.

(Extract.)

MY representations refer to the expedition equipped at Dora by Yussuf Ibrahim and the two nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit. This expedition started from there on the 3rd September, and when close to Koweit in Chor Abdullah was discovered by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," who gave chase. The boats were run aground off Mohammerah and taken possession of by the crew of the "Lapwing," upon whom the raiders opened fire, killing one British seaman and wounding two.

His Majesty's Consul caused witnesses who were acquainted with the facts or had taken part in the raid, to be brought to Bussorah to be interrogated by the Ottoman authorities, in presence of the Commander of the "Lapwing" or the Consul.

The Vali refused to allow either of these officials to be present or to send a Turkish magistrate on board to take the depositions, and they were therefore taken by the Turkish Commander.

The British Embassy holds copies, they inculpate very seriously Yussuf Ibrahim and others, and the British Ambassador, in the hope of satisfying his Government, suggested some time ago, both to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Grand Vizier that Yussuf Ibrahim and the two nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit should be expelled from the neighbourhood of Bussorah. The Ambassador did not undertake that this would be regarded as satisfactory reparation, but he urged it upon the Porte as likely to smooth matters. The Porte was bound by its engagement with His Majesty's Government to respect the status of Koweit, and not to allow the Ottoman dominions to be made the basis of a hostile expedition against the Sheikh of Koweit, whom the Imperial Government had promised not to attack or molest.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

(No. 6.)

THE Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs was instructed by the Foreign Minister to communicate verbally to me the contents of a despatch from the Grand Vizier dated the 21st December (3rd January). His Highness states that the Vali of Bussorah informs the Porte by telegraph that it is not true that Ibn Rashid is contemplating an attack on Koweit. Ibn Rashid is at Sasi, and is on his way to the desert. But unfortunately the Sheikh of Koweit has hostile intentions against the Shammar Arabs, who are affiliated to Ibn Rashid, and he has collected large numbers of men at El Djahré, intending to move on Zobeir, and this action on the part of the Sheikh of Koweit embitters still more the feud existing between him and Ibn Rashid, and excites the anger of the latter. The Grand Vizier goes on to say that the Sultan having learned of these matters has given the most categorical instructions to the Vali of Bussorah to use every effort to prevent a collision between the two Sheikhs, to insist on Ibn Rashid going home, and to dissuade the Sheikh of Koweit from any hostile action against the Shammar or Ibn Rashid. The Sultan further enjoins on the Porte to take every possible measure to prevent any conflict in those regions which might give an excuse to England to establish a Protectorate over Koweit. (It was evidently not intended that I should see this paragraph), and the Minister of the Interior and the Vali of Bussorah had been instructed to see that the *status quo* was observed as regards Koweit.

In another letter from the Grand Vizier, which was communicated to me verbally, His Highness says that the Vali reports that Ibn Rashid is at Kebd [?] four days from Zobeir, on his way home, that four British men-of-war are in Koweit waters, and that in accordance with the Porte's instructions he is taking every measure to prevent an attack on Koweit, and has sent a special messenger to Ibn Rashid to persuade him to continue his journey homewards.

This telegram from the Vali is dated the 17th December (31st December), and is subsequent to the one mentioned above.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

January 7, 1903.

No. 14.

Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, January 20, 1903.

KOWEIT. Reference to Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 13 of 7th January. Mr. Wratislaw reports to-day by telegraph that the Asir is three days from Koweit at Jafer.

No. 15.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Whitehead.

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 20, 1903.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 10 of 16th January.

I request that you will represent to the Porte that His Majesty's Government do not consider that the voluntary departure of Yusuf Ali from Bussorah, and the removal of the Sheikh's two nephews to a spot which is only 2 miles distant from there, constitute any satisfaction for the acts complained of, which have included an attack on a British man-of-war's boats, resulting in loss of life. Unless adequate punishment is inflicted on Yusuf Ali and the Sheikh's nephews, who are undoubtedly implicated, His Majesty's Government will be compelled to press for the Vali's removal, and other reparation besides.

No. 16.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 20, 1903.
I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* reporting communications which have passed between his Excellency and the Turkish Government in regard to the attempted raid on Koweit, which was prevented by His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," and the proceedings and attitude of the Amir of Nejd and Sheikh Mubarek.

I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, that, as proposed by Sir N. O'Conor, the warning given to Sheikh Mubarek through the Resident at Bushire that he should abstain from encouraging any action likely to involve him in difficulties with the Turkish Government or with the Amir of Nejd should be repeated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 17.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Whitehead.

(No. 25.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 21, 1903.

I HAVE received and communicated to the Secretary of State for India Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 13 of the 7th instant, reporting communications which had passed between him and the Turkish Government in regard to Koweit.

I have suggested to Lord G. Hamilton that, as proposed by his Excellency, the warning conveyed to Sheikh Mubarek through the Resident at Bushire, that he should abstain from encouraging any action likely to involve him in difficulties with the Turkish Government or with the Amir of Nejd, should be repeated.

Sir N. O'Conor's proceedings as reported in his despatch have my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 18.

Council Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, January 24, 1903.)

(No. 69. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, December 22, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that my Russian colleague, M. Adamow, has been absent for about three weeks from Bussorah, and has, I understand, accompanied the Russian warship "Aakold" in her tour round the Persian Gulf.

M. Adamow, who has hitherto served only in Persia, is an excellent Persian scholar, and may have been instructed to accompany the "Aakold" as interpreter without being intrusted with any particular political mission in Persian ports, which are in the district of his colleague at Bushire. The "Aakold," however, visited Koweit, and doubtless Colonel Kemball will hear from the Sheikh a more or less authentic account of what occurred there.

M. Adamow has not yet returned to Bussorah, but I understand that he is expected shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

* No. 13.

No. 19.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 25.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 20, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th instant, on the subject of the measures taken to punish those implicated in the attempted raid on Koweit, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Marquess of Lansdowne that they concur in his proposal to approve the language held by Sir N. O'Conor to the Grand Vizier, as reported in his Excellency's despatches No. 570 of the 30th December and No. 4 of the 6th January, and his suggestion that the question of demanding the recall of the Vali of Bassorah should be deferred for the present.

2. I am at the same time to inquire whether it is proposed to demand compensation for the losses inflicted on the "Lapwing's" crew during the engagement of that vessel with the enemy's dhows.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. L. THOMAS.

No. 20.

Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 29.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 10, 1903.

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 13 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that I yesterday received two telegrams from His Majesty's Consul at Bassorah in reply to the inquiry reported in the last paragraph of the above-mentioned despatch.

Mr. Wratislaw says that El Djahro, the place at which the Sheikh of Koweit is stated by the Porte to have collected a force for a raid on Zobeir, is the Sheikh's outpost, a few miles from Koweit, which he always occupies in force when threatened from the land side.

The Vali of Bassorah told Mr. Wratislaw in conversation on the 7th instant that the Sheikh had collected 2,000 men there, but said nothing of supposed aggressive intentions, of which Mr. Wratislaw himself also had no information.

On communicating by telegraph with the Resident at Bushire, Mr. Wratislaw was informed that the Commander of a British vessel had been at Koweit on the 3rd January and had seen the Sheikh, who had returned home, as the Emir Ibn Rashid had left the neighbourhood.

Mr. Wratislaw admits, however, that on the 5th January about fifty Koweit Arabs raided Zobeir in revenge for the Amir's raid, reported in his telegram of the 2nd January, repeated to your Lordship in Sir N. O'Conor's telegram No. 1 of the 4th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. B. WHITEHEAD.

No. 21.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 8th January, relative to Koweit Affairs.

India Office, January 27, 1903.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to India Office.**Bushire, December 11, 1902*

I HAVE the honour to inform you reference to your telegram, dated the 17th October last, in which I was directed to communicate to Sheikh Mubarak of Kuwait the message from the Government of India regarding his request for guns.

As I considered it advisable that the message should be conveyed verbally to the Sheikh, and as I was prevented by press of work and engagements elsewhere from proceeding to Kuwait, I directed my First Assistant to proceed to Kuwait to convey the message to Sheikh Mubarak.

Captain Hunt has now returned to Bushire. He has reported that he conveyed the message as directed. The Sheikh appeared to be disappointed that he could not have the guns, but he said that he would faithfully observe his engagement with the British Government. He complained bitterly about the Vali of Bussorah and Sheikh Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, and he said that the former was instigating the latter to do him as much injury as he could in every way, and that as recently as ten days ago Sheikh Yusuf had organized a raid from Zobayr upon tribes subordinate to Kuwait. He professed his disappointment that no action had been taken to bring Sheikh Yusuf bin-Ibrahim to account for his misdeeds, and he said that the British Government had a sufficient cause of action in the matter on account of the "Laying" incident. He asked why we did not bring pressure to bear on Sheikh Yusuf's brother in Bombay, who was financing Sheikh Yusuf, and thus enabling him to continue his misdeeds. He also alluded to his properties in Turkish territory, and complained that we did not bring pressure upon the Porte to order the Vali to cease from giving him trouble with regard to those properties.

Captain Hunt informed the Sheikh, in accordance with my directions, that, so far as Sheikh Yusuf was concerned, both the Report at Bushire and His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah had reported his hostile attitude towards the Sheikh of Kuwait to the British Government, and that it was hoped that means would be found to prevent him from doing further mischief; that, as regards the Sheikh's properties near Pao, it was not easy for His Majesty's Government to interfere, but that the Sheikh might be assured that what was possible on his behalf would be done, while, as regards Kuwait itself, the Sheikh had every reason to be satisfied with the protection which had been afforded to him by the British Government, and that the intention of the Government to continue this protection was evident from the message which was now conveying to him. [REDACTED] but it was evident that he was not entirely satisfied, and considered that more might have been done for him.

I directed Captain Hunt to ask the Sheikh if the report⁴ alluded to in my letter, dated the 21st September last, had reached him. The Sheikh denied it, but I am not inclined to credit his denial. Captain Hunt told him that the report was, of course, absurd, and that no attention need be paid to rumours of this kind.

The Russian cruiser "Askold," which has been here for the last few days, intends, I hear, to proceed to Kuwait shortly, taking the Russian Consul from Bussorah, who is now in Bushire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

January 2, 1903

TO [REDACTED] telegram of the 1st January, Kow.

I have asked gunboat at Bussorah visit Kuwait and bring news. I think that [REDACTED] Amru's appearance, if true, is for the purpose of soliciting assistance of [REDACTED] and I do not think that Kuwait is in any danger. I have not the right [REDACTED] at present to ask for more ships of war to be sent: "Waye" at Bussorah, "Redi reast," Masent.

⁴ The report was to effect that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Kuwait and some territory adjoining Egypt on the understanding
would be given to me [REDACTED] collection over Kuwait. The information was
of the Russian Consul here at Bushire.

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No. 22

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 29.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 27th January, relative to Kuwait affairs.

India Office, January 28, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, January 27, 1903.

THE Turkish Government have been informed by the Vali that the Sheikh of Kuwait has collected a large force at El Dhyatre with intention of advancing on Zobayr. A warning in the sense of my telegram of the 22nd September should again be addressed to Mubarak.

No. 23

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 30.)

Sir,

India Office, January 29, 1903.

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letters of the 16th and 18th January, transmitting a copy of Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 4 of the 5th January and Mr. Whitehead's telegram No. 10 of the 16th idem on the subject of the persons implicated in the recent raid on Kuwait.

His Lordship concurs in Lord Lansdowne's proposal to approve the language held by Sir N. O'Conor to the Grand Vizier in the above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GOLEY.

No. 24.

Count Wratislaw to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, January 31.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, January 3, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 69 of the 22nd December, I have the honour to report that during the visit of the Russian warship "Askold" to Kuwait, Jaber, the son of Sheikh Mubarak, went on board instead of his father, who declined to accept the Captain's invitation. He was treated with due civility, and received as presents a gun and a revolver. Negotiations of some sort seem to have taken place between the parties, but what they were I have been unable to ascertain. It is rather a suspicious circumstance that when the Commander of His Majesty's ship "Assaye" went to Kuwait, after the "Askold," of whose visit he was ignorant, neither the Sheikh nor his son mentioned to him that a Russian ship had been there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

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No. 25.

Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 43.)

My Lord,

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 15 of the 20th instant, I instructed Mr. Block to forward to you his report, which contained the following as substance, and asking that adequate punishment should be inflicted on Yusuf Ibrahim and the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit for the part they took in the recent piratical expedition.

I saw Tewfik Pasha this morning and asked him what reply I might send to your Lordship in regard to this matter. His Excellency answered that the substance of Mr. Block's pro-memorandum had been sent to the Vali of Bussorah for his report, and that a reply would be sent to this Embassy when it was received.

I pointed out to his Excellency that what His Majesty's Government required was that adequate punishment should be inflicted on these persons, who were implicated in the raid on Bussorah, as well as those who had been killed in loss of life, and that their mere removal from the neighbourhood of Bussorah, without even a sentence of banishment, could not be considered as such.

His Excellency replied that this would be borne in mind, and a reply would be given at least in regard to the Sheikh of Koweit's nephews, but that as regards Yusuf Ibrahim nothing could be done, as he had evaded punishment by flight.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. WHITEHEAD

No. 26.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from Mr. T. E. Denison Secretary General dated the 11th January, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, February 3, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 26.

*Lieutenant-Colonel G. Kemball to Government of India.**Lashire, December 22, 1902*

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 11th December, 1902, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a despatch which has been addressed to Sir N. R. O'Conor by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah regarding Koweit affairs.

Although I feel sure that Sheikh Mubarak will, if questioned, deny any complicity in the raid referred to, it is very probable that the Bedouins who committed the raid owe some sort of allegiance to the Sheikh of Koweit.

The Government of India are aware that Sheikh Mubarak has been advised on more than one occasion not to encourage any action on the part of his tribesmen, which may involve him in difficulties with the Turks, but the difficulties of his position must also be remembered. Constant raids have been perpetrated on his tribesmen in the region of Zubeir and Sefwan, presumably with the tacit connivance of the Turkish authorities. At any rate Mubarak can expect no redress from the Turks, and he has been informed that it is impossible for us to protect him from raids in that quarter.

As an Arab Sheikh, it is of course of vital importance to him to retain his hold on

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the Bedouin tribes which consider themselves subordinate to him, and under the circumstances, it is, I think, impossible for him, even if he had the power to control his tribesmen, to prevent them from carrying out reprisals for the raids to which they have been subjected.

No. 27.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 4.)

Under-Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 3rd instant, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, February 4, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 27

*Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.**February 3, 1903.*

By your telegram of the 27th ultimo, instructions were sent to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf to convey to the Sheikh of Koweit necessary warning if he appeared to be contemplating attack, and had gone to Jeham with other object than to protect his own property, as stated in his recent letter to the Resident. The following is the reply of the Resident, with whose conclusion, that no further action is required at present, we concur:—

"On the 12th I was asked by the Consul at Bussorah whether I had any confirmation of the similar report sent by the Vali to Constantinople. On the 18th I visited Koweit, and was told by Mubarak that report was false, and that he had no aggressive intentions. The Amir of Nejd was then at Hafla, which Mubarak considers as his territory, and which is three days' march from Koweit. I communicated to Watuslaw the information I had obtained at Koweit. It appears to me improbable that the Sheikh had any intention of moving on Zobeir, and I do not propose to take any further action on the Secretary of State's telegram, as I believe it had reference to the report from the Vali, which I have already mentioned."

No. 28.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Whitehead.

(No. 40.)

Sir,

I DULY received and communicated to the Secretary of State for India and to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty Sir N. O'Conor's despatches No. 570 of the 30th December and No. 4 of the 6th ultimo in regard to the demand of His Majesty's Government for the adequate punishment of the principal persons implicated in the attempted raid on Koweit.

The language which Sir N. O'Conor held to the Grand Vizier on the subject, as per his despatch, is as follows:—

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 29.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.**Foreign Office, February 6, 1903.*

WITH reference to the final paragraph of your letter, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo relative to the attempted raid on Koweit in September, 1902, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that, after consulting His Majesty's

Ambassador at Constantinople, who is now in this country, he is of opinion that it will not be necessary or advisable to claim compensation for the injuries inflicted on the crew of His Majesty's ship "Lapwing," if Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim and the two nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit receive the punishment demanded by His Majesty's Government.

The Lords Commissioners will, however, have seen, from Lord Lansdowne's telegram No. 15 of the 20th ultimo to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, a copy of which was communicated to you on the same day, that a demand for other reparation is contemplated if the persons concerned in the attempted raid are not adequately punished.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 30

Consul Wratulow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received February 10)

(No. 4. Confidential.)

Bussorah, January 8, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of a letter which the Vali of Bussorah addressed to me, stating that he had been informed by the Ministry of the Interior that the British Embassy had complained of the aggression against Kowet of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim and the nephews of Sheikh Hubarek, of which the Vilayet Government was said to be cognizant; and that, as this complaint must be founded on information supplied by me, he would be glad to be furnished with my proofs for the information of the Ministry of the Interior.

In reply, I simply referred the Valf to the letter I had already addressed to him on the subject of the "Lapwing" incident, and he thereupon wrote me another letter (of which translation is inclosed), defending his action, and laying all responsibility on the judicial authorities.

I understand that the Vah has received a somewhat severe reprimand from the Ministry of the Interior. He called on me yesterday, and, after some general conversation, introduced the subject of Mubarek. The Sheikh had, he said, written to congratulate him at Bairam, and he himself wrote back in friendly terms. It was a great pity that Mubarek would not restrain from provoking Ibn Reschid, for he was not only putting a stop to the in and commerce of this part of Arabia, but was also endangering himself and his town. Had not Ibn Reschid been checked by the Vah's orders on his recent approach in this direction, he would have assuredly taken Kowet and driven all the inhabitants into the sea.

The Vizir then turned to the question of the property dispute between Mubarak and his nephews, and here, he said, he must confess that the Sheikh's attitude had recently been quite correct. He had expressed his perfect willingness to accept and abide by the decision of the Arbitrators appointed by Imperial India, while the nephews had declined to agree to this course. He (the Vizir) had proposed that Khalid and Hamoud should be ordered to reside on their little property at Guerdian (a couple of miles above Bussorah), and that a pension should be allowed for their maintenance. With these two firebrands safely interned at Guerdian, and Yusuf-el-Ibrahim out of the country, his Excellency hoped that Mubarak would be able to rest in peace. The eldest nephew, Sabah, was a quiet, respectable man, and did not mix in the intrigues of the others.

The Sultan's utterances were distinctly propitiatory in tone. He referred only indirectly to the "Lapwing" incident, and made no attempt to champion Yussuf or the nephews, whose guilt he almost admitted by implication. His mention of Sheikh Mubarek was benevolent rather than otherwise, with the exception of one somewhat disparaging sentence, in which he called him "a har, a rascal, and an idiot." His Excellency's estimate of the easy task Ibn Reshid would have in attacking Kuwait is not that generally accepted, and it is doubtful whether the Amir would have ventured an assault, even had such action not been vetoed by the Sultan. As reported in my telegram of the 2nd instant, Ibn Reshid raided a large number of camels and other animals from an outlying tribe which, I believe, owes some sort of allegiance to Kuwait. At any rate, Mubarek was unable to make any offensive movement against the Amir on account of the loss of these camels, and his Bedouins retaliated two days ago by raiding the camels and mares belonging to Zobeir. The inhabitants of the latter town, who followed up the robbers, were defeated in a skirmish which ensued, several of them being wounded.

It would not, in my opinion, be safe to acquiesce in the Vali's theory that the
resettlement of Yusuf Luri and the settlement of Khalid and Hamoud at Guerdilan is
electoral, and remove all caught in Kastell Yalla under the pretext of robbery
as well as well be at Bussorah as at Guerdilan, which is only 2 miles away.

presumably for Mecca—and I have little doubt that he will join Iba Reshid before long, if not already with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30

Mustafa Nouri Pasha to Consul Wratislaw.

(Translators)

I HAVE been notified by the Ministry of the Interior that the Porte has been informed by the Foreign Office, Yesilova, that the interview with the Ambassador of Sir. Mr. Mubarak-za-Dawli, Persia, at Konya, was being held at the express request of the Sultan of Kowkit, and that this went on with the knowledge of the vilayet.

As the Ministry's case must be substantially based upon the latter, I beg that you will be kind enough to put me in possession of any conclusive proofs you may have to establish the fact that the Government has committed acts of aggression and treachery to which the Vilayet was privy, in order that I may submit the said proofs to the Ministry of the Interior.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Concyl Wratyslaw to Mustafa Nuri Pasha.

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IN reply to your Excellency's letter of the 20th Kainoun-i-Ervel, asking for evidence of the complicity of Sheikhs Tassef Idriss and the nephews of Sheikhs Mubarak in the expedition against Tripoli, and the capture of His Majesty's ship "Loring" I have the honour to refer your Excellency to my previous letters of the 8th September, 20th September, 20th October, and 8th November.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

Muatafa Nouri Pasha to Count Wratislaw.

Transac
tions

Sir,
I ADDRESSED to you a request that you would be good enough to inform me of any conclusive evidence in your possession of a nature to prove that Sheikh Yassaf-
Ibrahim and the members of his party had been instrumental in instigating
expressions of dissatisfaction by the people of Kano. I hope you will be able to supply
my request by giving me a copy of the letter sent by Sheikh Yassaf-Ibrahim and the
followers of Mankon to the Sultan of Sokoto. Now it will be observed that when
"Lapwing" intercepted, you referred me to the text of previously-received letters
you received from the Sultan of Sokoto and the Emir of Kano, both of whom
respectively addressed the Sultan of Kano and the Emir of Kano, respectively,
which, in due course, they had been handed over, and repeated. In them I found
nothing to indicate that Government had been present or involved in instigating
any such movement as that of the "Lapwing" and that we should do well to
forget all traces of the "Lapwing" and that we should do well to
and that the Government had considered it its duty to see that this incident should no
be brought to the light of day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MUSTAFA NOURI,
Vali and Fazil

No. 31

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and to Sir George Henderson, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 22nd January, relative to Kuwait.

India Office, February 10, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Bushire, December 29, 1902.
I HAVE the honour to forward translated copy of a report received by me from the Newsagent at Kowet on the subject of the visit to Kowet of the Russian cruiser "Askold" and other matters.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Newest Agent to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

ON the 12th December last, the Russian man-of-war arrived at Kowet from Bushire, half-an-hour before sunset. The next day the weather was stormy, so nobody landed from the ship. The third day, the Russian Consul of Bussorah and two officers of the ship came ashore and visited Sheikh Mubarek. The first question the Russian Consul put to Sheikh Mubarek was whether British men-of-war ever came to Kowet. The Sheikh replied: "Yea, they are in the habit of visiting Kowet." The Consul then said the Governments of England and Germany had come to an understanding, and agreed to bring a railway to Kadhima in his (the Sheikh's territory), and asked if he was aware of that or not. The Sheikh replied he was not aware of it, nor had he heard about it. After some complimentary conversation, the Consul asked Sheikh Mubarek to send Sheikh Jaber (his son) with him to see the man-of-war. Sheikh Jaber was accordingly sent with some men, and at the time of leaving the ship he was given a double-barrel gun and a five-chambered revolver. The man-of-war left Kowet on the 14th December last.

On the 8th December last, Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, Mubarek Azebi, and Khaled-bin-Aoon, who is Sheikh of Zubeir, collected 200 men and attacked Sheikh Mubarek's residence in the city of Jehara. The tribesmen repelled them, and in

doing so wounded Mubarek Azebi in the stomach, who fell in his blood. His men took him away, and they were defeated. Sheikh Mubarek's men pursued them to near Zubair, and captured the sheep and camels which belonged to Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim and Mubarek Azebi. At present the Sheik has collected all his men towards his sides, and has ordered them not to leave his boundaries without his permission. His subjects and tribesmen are grateful to him.

Rain has fallen in the neighbourhood of Koweit, and the place looks green.

The Vali of Bussorah has made Sheikh Mubarek angry. Sheikh Jaber, Sheikh Mubarek's brother, at the time he left Fao, after finishing his work connected with the ~~.....~~ akub-bin-Ibrahim-bin-Khalisah as his agent in his house, which ~~.....~~ 10 rupees. Yakub commands Sheikh Mubarek's confidence, and is his Vakil. The Vali had ordered the Mudir of Fao to send Yakub to Bussorah, as he was said to be a conscript. The Mudir sent some soldiers and arrested Yakub for the purpose of sending him to Bussorah. Yakub told the Mudir: "I am not a conscript: the Yakub who is a conscript is Yakub-bin-Hazza. My name is Yakub-bin-Ibrahim-bin-Khalisah, and am now here in Fao for the last twenty five years. You can't get me to go to Bussorah if you want it. I am in illazza. The Mudir replied that he had received orders to send him (Yakub) to Bussorah. Yakub was forcibly taken to Bussorah, and on his reaching Bussorah, the Vali consigned him to a cell. The Sheikh's house has been left without a guardian. Sheikh Mubarek is extremely angry with the Vali on this account.

As regards Ibn Raschid, he has, in these days, encamped between Hail and Kasum, ten days' journey from Ibo Saood's territory. He has not made any movements till now. Abdul Aziz Ibn Saood is in his country. All the inhabitants and tribes of Nejd are under his orders, and are happy and grateful to him.

They are not afraid of Ibn Rasebil.

P.S.—Mubarek Azebi is not likely to survive the bullet-wound which he has received in his stomach. He was the chief supporter of Yusuf ibn Ibrahim, and was harassing Sheikh Mubarek's tribesmen. He has reached his punishment. He is a son of Sheikh Mubarek's uncle.

With regard to the Russian Consul, he was showing great friendly feelings to Sheik Mubarek and expressed readiness to do any work he may have for them (the Russians).

Enclosure 3 in No. 81.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Bushkill, December 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward translated copy of a report received by me from the Newsagent at Koweit. I can hardly believe that the Amir of Nejd has himself appeared in the neighbourhood of Koweit, as he is believed to be in the vicinity of Riadh.

I have not yet received any confirmation from Bussorah of the report that orders had been issued for the expulsion of Sheikh Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim.

Enclosure 4 is No. 81.

Kowat Agent to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(After compliments.)

(After compliments.)
I BEG to inform you that on the 22nd December last, Abdul Aziz Ibn Raschid came unawares in the neighbourhood of Koweit, two hours' distant from Jehara, and made a night attack on Sheikh Mubarek's Arabs. There were seventy houses which he looted. When the other Arabs heard of this, they went to the assistance of their friends and drove him away. They then informed Sheikh Mubarak, who sent soldiers and sowars to protect them. Ibn Raschid, after plundering the Arabs, went in a northerly direction, two days' distant from Jehara. Sheikh Mubarek has sent sowars to four sides for the protection of his Arabs. Besides these, he has despatched to his frontiers

100 sevans with a view to finding out Ibn Raseid's whereabouts and strength, and preventing him from making another attack by surprise.

On the 22nd Ramazan [sic] news reached Sheikh Mubarak from Bussorah that the Sublime Porte had ordered the Vali of Bussorah that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim should not stay in Bussorah or in the neighbourhood, but should go to Damascus or Jeddah to live, that all the sons of Sheikh Muhammad Sabah (Mubarak's murdered brother) should go to Bagdad to live. This news has been given to Sheikh Mubarak by his friend in Bussorah. When he heard it he became greatly pleased, and said this order must have been issued at the instance of the British Government, and prayed that God may not remove their shadow from him.

No. 32.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 12.)

Sir,

India Office, February 11, 1903.
WITH reference to your letter of the 20th ultimo regarding the proceedings and attitude of the Sheikhs of Koweit, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of telegrams which have passed between the Office and the Government of India.

Lord George Hamilton will be glad to be informed whether Lord Lansdowne concurs in the proposal of the Government of India, that no action should be taken for the present on the instructions sent to the Viceroy on the 27th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, January 27, 1903.
THE Turkish Government have been informed by the Vali that the Sheikh of Koweit has collected a large force at El Djahre with intention of advancing on Zobeyr. A warning in the sense of my telegram of the 22nd September should again be addressed to Mubarak.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 3, 1903.
AS desired in your telegram of the 27th January, instructions were sent to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf to convey to the Sheikh of Koweit necessary warning to him against advancing on Zobeyr, and to inform him of his duty with other object than to protect his own property, as stated in his recent letter to the Resident. The following is the reply of the Resident, with whose conclusion, that no further action is required at present, we concur: "On the 11th I was asked by the Consul at Bussorah whether I had any confirmation of the similar report sent by the Vali to Constantinople. On the 18th I visited Koweit, and was told by Mubarak that report was false, and that he had no aggressive intentions. The Amir of Nejd was then at Hassar, which Mubarak claims as his territory, and which is three days' march from Koweit. I communicated to Wratislaw the information I had obtained at Koweit. It is now known that the Amir of Nejd is not encroaching on Zobeyr, and I do not propose to take any further action on the Secretary of State's telegram, as I believe it had reference to the report from the Vali, which I have already mentioned."

No. 33

Mr. Whitehead

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 29.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, February 12, 1903.

MR. CONSUL WRATISLAW telegraphs that the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit, being in want of money since Yusuf went away, have proposed to make an arrangement with the Sheikhs of Koweit, whereby an allowance of £1,000 to be allowed them annually by the Sheikh, less the income from the estates at Ajerawich and Guedilan, on which they wish to settle. Vali is in correspondence with the Sheikh on the subject. Mr. Wratislaw thinks that an arrangement may be arrived at on the proposed basis. Am I to insist on the punishment of the Sheikh's nephews, or should I support this arrangement?

No. 34.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 13, 1903.

WITH reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, the accompanying copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Constantinople,* with regard to a proposal which has been made by the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit for an arrangement with their uncle as to the allowance which they receive from him.

Sir N. O'Connor, to whom this telegram has been communicated, sees no objection to the proposal, provided that it is approved of by the Sheikh, and that it is settled through H. S. M. S. Consul Wratislaw.

It appears to Lord Lansdowne, that the suggested arrangement is a good one, but before sending instructions to Mr. Whitehead, he would wish to be favoured with the views of the Secretary of State on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 35.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 24, 1903.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 11th instant, forwarding copies of telegraphic correspondence with the Government of India, relative to a proposal to warn the Sheikh of Koweit against encouraging any action likely to bring him into difficulties with Nejd or with the Turkish authorities.

In view of the opinion of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf that the Sheikh has no aggressive intentions, Lord Lansdowne concurs in the proposal of the Government of India to take no action for the present.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 26.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegraphic correspondence relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, February 26, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. ...

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, February 20, 1903.
ON the 11th February Consul at Bussorah reported a proposal by Mubarak's nephews, who since Yusuf's departure have been in financial difficulties, to arrange a settlement with Mubarak concerning the property. They wish to occupy the estates at Quedilan and Ajerawieh, the income from which is £ T. 2,000 a-year more than their allowance from Mubarak. Provided that the Sheikh accepts this proposal and the settlement is arranged through Consul at Bussorah, have you any objection?

Inclosure 2 in No. 36

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, February 24, 1903.
I WILL reply as soon as possible to my telegram of the 20th, relating to Kuwait.

Inclosure 3 in No. 36

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 26, 1903.
I WILL address you further in reply to your telegram of the 24th on receipt of a report which Colonel Kembell has been asked to furnish after ascertaining the views of the Sheikh of Kuwait.

No. 37.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received March 2.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 26, 1903.
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of a letter dated the 4th instant, from Lieutenant and Commander R. M. Lambert, of His Majesty's ship "Assaye," on the subject of piracy in the Shat-el-Arab.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Lieutenant-Commander Lambert to Rear-Admiral Sir C. Drury.

Sir,

"Assaye," at Bomb. F. 1. 1. 1.
I HAVE the honour to submit that during the recent three months my ship under my command was serving in the Persian Gulf. I was enabled to gather the following information by conversation with Sheikh Mubarek of Kuwait, my interpreter, my shikari, and also the captain of the dhow of the "Fath-el-Kar," which was pirated on the 26th November, 1902, and on another occasion from the captain of a dhow to whom I was able to render some assistance in repairing the iron yoke of his rudder, without which he was unable to proceed to sea from the river. I am aware that the character of Arabs is to tell any story best suited to the occasion, and must be received with caution, but these men had nothing to gain by not speaking the truth, and by showing them small courtesies they became more friendly and talkative. I therefore forward to you a summary of their conversation, which I trust may be of interest. Sheikh Mubarek assured me that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim was paying the Vali of Bussorah to keep his mouth shut and bush up the

affair of the "Lapwing's" capture of pirates. The Vali is undoubtedly open to bribery, and, consequently, an unreliable Governor, and though he takes care to pay himself before forwarding the revenue to his Government, his pay, at the best, is small for his position. The whole country is a mass of spying and bribery, and the man with the longest purse remains at the head of affairs. To gain information on any matters, paid spies are employed; they in turn have other spies, and the Vali, in consequence, is not able to pay them all. Yusuf, on the other hand, is a wealthy man and respected in consequence, and does what he likes, and though he has now gone away on account of the "Lapwing" affair, he still exercises considerable control.

I would submit that he is in considerable fear of having his Bombay property confiscated and I would submit that he, his family, and all near relations be removed altogether, as a deterrent effect on the remainder of the population thereabouts.

Yusuf has his own pirates for any little purposes he may want, named [redacted] and [redacted] Jubair, who are sons of an influential Sheikh in Persian territory, and have about 2,000 men under them, so that, though outlaws, they are free pirates. These men [redacted] live by piracy, either by land or by sea, and have [redacted] with [redacted] Mubarak or Mukhlis, who at one time was one of Darya Beg's crew. [redacted] is not long ago the Admiral on board the "Persepolis" Persian gunboat.

[redacted] Aliwi-bin-Matruk, Aliwi-bin-Matruk, all residing in the [redacted] Saree, [redacted] Aswan, [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

The Sheikh of Mohammerah and the Vali of Bussorah are, in reality, bitter enemies, and each blames the other, and the consequence is that no satisfactory arrangement is ever to be arrived at. The Sheikh of Mohammerah is an extremely influential man, his favourite wife being a Persian Princess, so that he has little to fear, and plays his game accordingly.

The dhow he arms and puts on the river is a useless force, and I found out from one of his crew that his pay was 10 rupees a-month, and that he was married, had three children, horses, cattle, and a small piece of land, and that, in addition to these, his mother-in-law lived with him.

To keep up this establishment on this amount is impossible even in Persia, and I was told, in a purely voluntary way, that the men in the dhow did commit piracy, and the fact was well known on the river. Unfortunately, I could not receive proof of this statement, but as the Arab loves fighting for fighting' sake, and the men in the dhow are well armed, it certainly lends colour to the idea, and they are able to go undetected, and if even they were "given away" by any one and caught red-handed, they could, and would, wreak a terrible vengeance: the result being the villagers are terrorised. My information was obtained on a promise not to disclose the man's name, but I am not aware of the man's real name, though he thinks I know it.

The whole idea of the Persians and Turks may be summed up in the two words "Politique Zuda," which is a Persian expression meaning, literally, to "get the better of you"—the consequences of which may be imagined.

Sheikh Mubarek is at present very friendly with the British, but he has a grievance which might be put right easily, and add much to our prestige there. It is with regard to his property confiscated by Yusuf at or near Fao. The Political Resident at Bushire is aware of the fact, and I am sure if it was restored that we should gain much by helping him, for, though he is friendly enough apparently, it would take little to make him distrust us.

His argument is that we have given him a protection, and should help him in everything, and cannot reconcile our telling him we will as far as Kuwait is immediately concerned, and not helping at Fao. It is his nature, I suppose, and will be hard to alter.

I have the honour to submit that piracy on the river would be considerably abated if either—

(a.) The dhows under British colours were made to deposit the money they carry for buying dates with the British Consuls at port of departure, receipts given, and letters of advice forwarded by mail steamer to Bussorah, and the money paid over there.

(I fancy there would be a little difficulty at first, as the native is suspicious, but it would soon be overcome.)

(b.) To have three fast launches, such as the one at present owned by Messrs. Lynch Brothers, at Bussorah. They cost about 3,000*l*, each, and are built by White, of Cowes. They could accommodate six men, and could do a fortnight on the bar, and at Fao; a fortnight between Fao and Mohammerah, and a fortnight at Bussorah, where small repairs

can be effected; the men to be borne supernumeraries in Senior Naval Officer's ship. The launch is able to steam 18 knots and raise steam in half-an-hour or less.

(c.) To insist on the Turkish and Persian Governments paying half the damage each to any dhows pirated, which would be, I fancy, the easiest way out of the difficulty.

No number of gun-boats on the river will suppress piracy, as they are so easily watched, and news travels at an extraordinary rate.

It was reported by messenger to the Consul at Bussorah within two days that I had destroyed the dhows off Koweit. The Turkish gun-boats on the river—the "Kotid-el-Bahr" and "Zohaf"—are absolutely useless, and during the month I was on the river they never moved from their anchorages off Dawsir Island and Bussorah respectively.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. M. LAMBERT

No. 35

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 14th March, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, March 16, 1903

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton,

March 14, 1903.

(1) P
FOLLOWING telegram has been rec'd from Colonel Kemball, dated the 13th M—

"His Majesty's ship 'Sphinx,' which arrived from Koweit yesterday, reports having met there the Russian and French cruisers, which were there from 8th to 10th inst. Abdul Aziz-bin-Feyroul, who had just arrived at Koweit, [REDACTED] Consul at Bussorah, who had come on board the 'Sphinx,' subsequently informed the Commander of the 'Sphinx,' in an interview, was promised by the Russian Consul assistance in the shape of rifles and money. Report follows by post. Amir of Nejd is said to be at present about eight days' march from Koweit in El Kasim, and fighting is expected to take place before he [REDACTED]"

No. 36

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 26th ultimo, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, March 19,

Inclosure in No. 36

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the 11th ultmo, I received a telegram from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to the effect that the Ambassador at

No. 37°.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 12.)

Sir,

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th February, on the subject of a proposal which has been made by the nephews of the Sheikh of Koweit for an arrangement with their uncle.

In reply, I am to say that, should an arrangement satisfactory to both parties be arrived at, the object aimed at by His Majesty's Government, when they insisted upon the expulsion of Mubarek's nephews from the neighbourhood of Bussorah, will be attained.

His Lordship therefore desires me to request that you will inform Lord Lansdowne that, subject to the conditions suggested by Sir N. O'Connor, he sees no objection to instructions being sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to support the proposed arrangement, and in the meantime to suspend the question of the banishment of the Sheikh's nephews.

I am also to inclose copies of telegrams which have passed between this Office and the Government of India on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37°.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 26, 1903.

I WILL address you further in reply to your telegram of 21st on receipt of a report which Colonel Kemball has been asked to furnish after ascertaining the views of the Sheikh of Koweit.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37°.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 5, 1903.

MY telegram of 26th February.

Reply of Sheikh of Koweit is that months ago he informed the Vali that he accepted the Irade of the Sultan, by which disinterested persons appointed at Bussorah were, after inquiry, to decide on his nephews' claims.

Colonel Kemball thinks that Mubarek is anxious to settle matter, but is not prepared to accede entirely to the proposal of his nephews, and that he wishes matter referred to arbitration under the supervision of Consul at Bussorah and the Vali.

Perhaps it can be arranged at Constantinople that Wratislaw should attend the proceedings, in view of the peculiar status of Koweit.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37°.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

March 11, 1903.

(Telegraphic.) P.

My telegram of the 5th March.

Colonel Kemball reports that His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah thinks that unobjectionable recognition of his intervention in the settlement in matter of Sheikh of Koweit might be easily obtained by him from the present Vali, who appears to have first broached the subject to him. Before mentioning the subject to the Vali, Wratislaw awaits orders from Constantinople.

24*

No. 37*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic) P.

Foreign Office, March 18, 1905

WITH reference to my telegram No. 41 of the 26th ultimo, on the subject of
Kowait, I repeat to your Excellency two telegrams from the Viceroy of IndiaYou may support the arrangement, and, in the meantime, suspend the question
of the banishment of the Sheikh's nephews, subject to the conditions that it is approved
by the Sheikh, and settled through the medium of His Majesty's Consul at
Bussannah.I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Constantinople had telegraphed to him that the Porte had received a telegram from the Wali of Bussorah that Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit had collected a large force at Jehara, with the intention of moving on Zobeir and attacking the Amir of Nejd. Mr Wratislaw asked me if I had any information on the subject.

In the ultima I left Bushire in the "Lawrence" and proceeded to Koweit. On the 15th I visited Sheikh Mubarak, who was in Koweit. He informed me that there was no truth in the report, and that he did not contemplate offensive

expedition. He said that he intended to abide by the advice given by His Majesty's Government that he should not provoke the Amir or the Turkish Government. His evident son, Jaber, was, he informed me, at that time in Turkey, and was engaged in a raiding expedition. While I was at Koweit I did not learn that Mubarak had made any hostile expedition, and I do not think that there is any foundation for the report.

In my interview with Sheikh Mubarak I took the opportunity of discussing fully his grievances against the Amir. I said that, from his letters to me, it appeared that he considered that he had a grievance against His Majesty's Government. It seemed to me, however, that he had no real cause for this. His Majesty's Government had supported him firmly throughout, and it was solely owing to this support that he had retained his independent position at Koweit. With regard to his complaints against the Amir of Nejd and the Turks for having encouraged raids on his tribes, he must surely understand that it was not possible for His Majesty's Government to give him active support, but I felt sure that my Government had not neglected to take such measures as were possible in the way of representations to the Turkish Government on behalf of the Sultan.

Sheikh Mubarak acknowledged that he had real cause for gratitude to His Majesty's Government for the support which had been given to him, but he said that he was now at a place called Hader, which was some three days' march from Koweit and within Koweit territory, and that his enemy, Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, was still in close touch with the Amir. He said that, owing to his proximity to the British Consulate at Bussorah, he was doing all he could to injure him by raids and by detaching his tribes from their allegiance to Koweit.

I told the Sheikh that the advice which had been given to him not to assume an aggressive attitude against the Amir of Nejd appeared to me to be sound; that as Mubarak had himself informed me, the fortune of war appeared to be going against the Amir, whose power appeared to be on the decrease; and that, if Mubarak now kept quiet, time would appear to be on his side, whereas, if he now pursued an aggressive policy, he might get into difficulties from which it would be difficult for His Majesty's Government to extricate him. I told him at the same time that there could be no objection to his taking the requisite measures for protecting his own territories, but I advised him not to go further than this.

The Sheikh appeared to acknowledge the justice of my remarks, and again said that he had no intent on of assuming the offensive against the Amir. He then said that the chief causes for dissatisfaction were that his enemy, Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, had been wrongfully imprisoned and treated with impunity and had not been brought to account, and that the Wali of Bussorah treated him with the greatest injustice in the matter of his property in Fao. With regard to the latter matter, he said that all he had done was to claim common justice, as might be enjoyed by other owners of property in Bussorah; whereas all the Wali's actions with regard to his properties were actuated by malice, and on this account he had suffered a loss of some 3,000 Turkish liras. He said that I could not arrange that the British Consul at Bussorah should befriend him, but that I could make every effort to present my representations to the Wali with regard to his property.

I tried to explain to the Sheikh the difficulty in the way of our interference with regard to property situated within Turkish territory, but I said that I would inform our Consul at Bussorah of what he said. My interview with the Sheikh was long and very friendly. He more than once repeated his protestations of loyalty to the British Government, and I am sure he means what he says.

After leaving Koweit I proceeded to Bussorah, where I saw His Majesty's Consul, to whom I communicated what I had heard at Koweit.

The place Hafer, where the Amir was then said to be, though it has claimed by Sheikh Mubarak to be within Kowit limits, is probably "no man's land," though Sheikh Mubarak's claim to it may be as good as any one else's. The Amir of Nejd had only some 300 troops with him, and the Sheikh did not appear to be in any way anxious regarding the safety of Kowit.

No. 40.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 22nd March, relative to Kowit affairs.

India Office, March 23, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P

March 22, 1903.

KOWIT: My telegram of the 11th March.

I have received following telegram from Wratislaw with reference to a telegram from me of the 14th instant:—

"The Vali's explanation of the situation is that Hamoud and Khalid, nephews of Mubarak, have joined the Amir of Nejd, and will permanently reside at Hayel. Should they return to Bussorah they will be arrested, and tried for the attempt on Kowit."

"Two other nephews, Sabah and Saoud, have been empowered by them to negotiate a settlement with Mubarak."

"Vali proposes arbitration, with himself as umpire, each side appointing an Arbitrator. As Arbitrator for the Amir he suggests Mahmoud Pasha, a wealthy landowner, who, in my opinion, is as likely to be as impartial as any Turkish subject here. Vali has written to Mubarak, indicating the lines of arbitration, and asking him to draft the deed of reference."

"As Vali seems to be quite ready to discuss matters with me, and really anxious to effect a settlement, I have said nothing about claiming the right of friendly intervention."

No. 41

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 52 of the 13th instant, as to the settlement of the dispute between the Sheikh of Kowit and his nephews concerning certain estates, I learn from Mr. Consul Wratislaw that the present position of the arbitration negotiations is as follows: The Vali of Bussorah had written to the Sheikh proposing that each side should nominate an arbitrator and that he himself should nominate an umpire—suggesting a certain Mahmoud Pasha, whom Mr. Wratislaw considers as likely to be as impartial as any Turkish subject there. The Vali has now received a letter from the Sheikh proposing four arbitrators from each side. His Excellency agrees to three, as one of the Sheikh's nominees is not an acceptable person. The Vali is voluntarily keeping Mr. Wratislaw informed of the progress of the negotiations, and the latter has not yet found it necessary to make any formal claim of the right of friendly intervention. I have instructed Mr. Wratislaw that I see no objection to the proposed mode of settlement, provided that the Sheikh agrees and that the matter is arranged under the Consul's supervision. I added that steps should be taken to insure that the two nephews, Khalid and Hamud, implicated with Yusuf in the raid, who have

Constantinople, March 24, 1903

joined the Amir of Nejd and will reside permanently at Hayel, should not be able to reopen the question, and the Vali has promised Mr. Wratislaw that he will see that these absent nephews are bound equally with the nephews Sabah and Saoud to accept the award.

I have learnt from the Porte that the Amir of Nejd is reported to be in El-Kassim some eight days from Kowit, and reports from Jeddah point to the possibility of an attack on Riadh being contemplated. Mr. Wratislaw telegraphs, however, that Abdul-Aziz-bin-Saoud had passed the feast of Bairam at Kowit, which would seem to indicate that Riadh was not considered in danger, and that according to the Vali the Amir is endeavouring to arrange an alliance with Sadun and is chastising the outlying tribes, having little hope left of taking Riadh.

I think that, notwithstanding the Vali's assurances, the presence of Yusuf Ibrahim and the Sheikh's nephews in the Amir's camp, and the conflicting reports received respecting the latter's movements, afford us sufficient cause for regarding the local situation at Kowit with a certain amount of anxiety.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 42

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received April 28.)

(Continued.)
Sir,

Admiralty, April 22, 1903.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of a letter, dated the 14th ultimo, from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Splinx," and copy of an extract from a letter of the 27th ultimo from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's reporting the visit of the Russian cruiser "Boyarin," and the French "to Kowit and Mowat.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. J. THOMAS.

Inclosure in No. 42

Commander Kemp to Rear-Admiral Sir C. Drury.

"Splinx," at Bushire, March 14, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to report that, during the visit of the "Inferniet" and Kowit, Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud was in Kowit, and was twice visited by the Russian Consul of Bushire and by the Captain of the "Boyarin."

Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud, about a year ago, captured Riadh from the Amir of Nejd, Ibn Itnehid, and has since been continually at war with him. Mahomet, the brother of Abdul Aziz, was also in Kowit, and visited the "Inferniet" on the 7th March, where he was fêted, and saluted with five guns on leaving.

I visited Abdul Aziz on the afternoon of the 8th March, in company with Sheikh Mubarak, and was told that the Russian Consul had made the former offer of money and rifles to assist him against the Amir of Nejd.

I pointed out to Abdul Aziz that it was undesirable that foreign European countries should interfere in the affairs of Nejd and suggested that he should refuse any offers made to him on behalf of the Russian Government, and that, as Great Britain was the predominant Power in the Persian Gulf, and intended to remain so, it would not, in the end, pay him to do anything of which she disapproved.

Abdul Aziz promised to report what I said to his father, Abdul Rahman bin-Saoud, but pointed out the Amir of Nejd received money and support from the Turkish Government, and that it was necessary for him to have money to retain the support of the Arab tribes in his efforts against the Amir.

I think it is likely that Abdul Aziz will take anything from the Russians he can get, and that Mubarak will back him up in doing so, and it is possible that some definite arrangement was entered into on this occasion.

* Not printed.

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I had met with Abdul Aziz at Koweit on the 1st March, and he was accompanied by his brother Mubarak and some members of his family because he had been ill.

I had visited Mubarak in his presence of Abdul Aziz in Koweit as, and he told me its to him of the

which I learnt from other sources. In the presence of Mubarak, I do not consider this was strayed.

Mubarak was not present on the occasion of my interview with Abdul Aziz.

Both Mubarak and Abdul Aziz received presents of guns, watches, &c., from the Captains of the French and Russian ships.

On returning to Bushire on the 10th March, I reported the matter to the Resident who telegraphed the substance of it to the Government of India.

I have, &c.
Signed) T. W. KEMP.

No. 4

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord Bryce Handley-Paton, forwards herewith information of the Secretary of State, enclosed in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 9th April, 1903.

India Office, May 7, 1903.

Inlosure 1 in No. 43.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India

Bushire, March 16, 1903

WITH reference to my telegram dated the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that the Russian cruiser "Boyarin" and the French cruiser "Infernol" left Bushire in company on the night of the 4th March, and reached Koweit the next day. I forward, for the information of the Government of India, translated copies of two letters received by me from the news agent at Koweit on the subject.

2. His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" returned to Bushire on the 6th instant, and I received a communication from the Sheikh relative to the piracy on the Koweit boat which occurred in the northern end of the Gulf early in February last. The "Sphinx" left at once, and reached Koweit on the 7th March. Commander Kemp called upon Sheikh Mubarak, and also took the opportunity of visiting Abdul Aziz after the Russian Consul had been to see him. He was informed by Abdul Aziz that the Russian Consul had offered him assistance in the way of money and rifles.

3. It is, of course, possible that Abdul Aziz made this statement to Commander Kemp, hoping thereby to interest the British Government on his behalf, and I understand from Commander Kemp that Mubarak subsequently round him as to the possibility of the British Government making an advance of money to Abdul Aziz, who wanted money in order to strengthen his position at Rishd and continue his struggle with the Amir of Nejd. I am inclined, however, to believe that the Russian Consul actually did make the offer, but whether he did so with the authority of his own Government I am unable to say. It is difficult for me to see what interest the Russian Government can have in supporting the Wahabi claimant against the Amir of Nejd, more especially when the ultimate result of the struggle which is now proceeding cannot be foreseen. The failure of the Amir of Nejd to reassert his supremacy certainly shows that the power and influence of the present Amir cannot be compared with that enjoyed by his predecessor, but at the same time the position of the Wahabis is very insecure, and I should not be at all surprised to see the Amir ultimately victorious.

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There is, of course, no doubt that Abdul Aziz would accept assistance from any one who offered it to him, and it is quite possible that the Russian Consul made the offer in the hope that victory would soon declare itself on the Wahabi side and without the intention of performing the promise. Possibly, too, he made the offer with a view to find out if Abdul Aziz had any understanding with us.

4. I have not yet been able to ascertain what actually passed at the interview between Sheikh Mubarak and the Russian Consul. I think it highly probable that on this occasion, as on former occasions, the Russian Consul tried to come to some understanding with Sheikh Mubarak, but I am not inclined to believe that the Sheikh has responded to his advances.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

News Agent, Koweit, to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

March 5, 1903.

ON the 3rd March, 1903, Abdul Aziz-bin-Feisal (el Saood) arrived in the suburbs of Koweit with his troops and encamped at Arisieh, which is five hours' distant from Koweit. On the 4th March, Abdul Aziz, accompanied by his brother Muhammad and 100 sowars, came to Koweit and visited Sheikh Mubarak. Up till now his tents and troops are at Arisieh. He and his brother are in Koweit, where they intend to stay till the (Bakri) Eid. After the Eid he intends to fight Ibn Rashid.

Regarding Ibn Rashid, he is in the suburbs of Kasim. He is now very weak, and his tribes have deserted him for fear of Abdul Aziz. Abdul Rahman, father of Abdul Aziz, has settled at Rindh with all his troops. They have made Ibn Rashid's work difficult. Let us see what God does. Sheikh Jaber (son of Sheikh Mubarak) is at present at Jebra with his troops, and Sheikh Mubarak himself is in Koweit.

Inclosure 3 in No. 43.

News Agent, Koweit, to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Translation.)

March 8, 1903.

TWO men-of-war, one Russian and the other French, came together in Koweit five hours after sunrise on the 5th March, 1903. An hour later two men came from the Russian ship "Boyarin" to see Sheikh Mubarak. They were Petukha, and their names are [redacted] and [redacted]. They were told by Sheikh Mubarak that the Russian Consul had come to see him. They then told Sheikh Mubarak that they had come to see him to give him a present. They said that the Consul had given them a Mauser rifle and a five-chambered revolver. They said that the Consul had given them three "tosangs" (guns), one of which was a double-barrel gun. They then went to Abdul Aziz, and the Consul gave him a Mauser rifle. They remained two hours with him. At the time of their departure, the Consul asked Abdul Aziz to go with him to the ships, so that he may show them to him, but Abdul Aziz asked to be excused on the score of fatigue (he had undergone). The Consul accepted the excuse, and asked Abdul Aziz to send his brother. Abdul Aziz accordingly sent his brother, accompanied by ten men, with the Consul.

It was arranged that the ships should leave on the 8th March.

No. 41.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 11.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)

Sir,

IN the course of conversation yesterday the Vali informed me, with reference to the arbitration now pending between the Sultan and the Amir of Kuwait, that the Sultan on behalf of Abdul Mubarak, who, as reported in Mr. Wratislaw's despatch No. 29 of the 21st June, 1902, was condemned to ten years' imprisonment for importing sedition literature.

His Excellency stated that they were very anxious at Constantinople to effect a speedy settlement of the Sabah family disputes, and, if he could satisfy them in this respect as he felt confident of doing, the Sultan would probably not be averse to expression to his Imperial approval by reprimanding the culprit. Such a step would, he informed me, be doubly felicitous, inasmuch as it would serve to strengthen Mubarak's allegiance to His Majesty by the lasting tie of gratitude for the release of his relative, and would, at the same time, save the Sheikh from the odium of having made the young man a scapegoat for his own indiscretion in the matter of the "Khalifa" newspaper.

The Vali added that there was no further development of the situation. Three Arbitrators had been chosen on either side, and they, with Mubarak's consent, had nominated Seyyed Ahmed Pasha, the Nahib's brother, a man of great intelligence and merit, as umpire. Mubarak has not yet signed the reference to arbitration, but, as soon as he did so and returned the document, the sittings would begin, and would be held under his Excellency's personal supervision.

Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 42

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, May 18.)

(No. 18.)

Sir,

I CALLED on the Vali to-day with reference to an attack on a Kuwait boat and murder of six men by a pirate belliger, alleged to belong to Ali Said, of Dorn, in Khor Musan, opposite Um-el-Dabab, on the 3rd February last. Mr. Wratislaw on the 2nd March forwarded to me the names of the culprits and ample information to enable him to trace them. So far, no answer has been received to this communication.

The Vali replied that he had summoned the Mudir of Fao, and directed him to make an inquiry. The results, so far, were negative. The man reported as killed had been found and denied all knowledge of the affair. It was an easy matter for them to substitute one man for another, and the primitive character of local government in the savagely villages of the marshes of the Shatt rendered all efforts to identify the culprits nugatory. The Nahib's people at Zaidieh denied all knowledge of the matter. His Excellency would continue his researches, but anticipated no result. He had no voice at his disposal in these waters, and assumed no responsibility for this and similar attacks. The Arabs were adepts in the art of lying and he had no means of ascertaining how far the individuals mentioned were implicated in the affair.

I replied that I could not accept the Mudir's statements or rest satisfied with the abortive results of the examination. I pointed out that our vessels of war were in those waters for the purpose of suppressing piracy, and we expected the Turks to co-operate. The projected visit of the "Sphinx" to Bassorah was in connection with this affair. The Sultan's Porte had issued a circular to all the ports of the Persian Gulf to the effect that pirates who took refuge in Ottoman territory, I could not admit his irresponsibility if he failed to prosecute the search with due

diligences. I suggested that as proof of his good intentions he should send a trustworthy interpreter to assist the Vali in the examination of men, who had been captured and lawfully brought into the town at their interrogatory.

His Excellency consented to send some one, but demurred as to the attendance

of Englishmen. I said that the English would be well off if the Vali's

representatives were present and a nice man; let them come."

It is evident from the Vali's remarks and his apathetic attitude in regard to the affair that he either can or will do nothing to prosecute a serious inquiry, and impression left on my mind by the interview, which lasted an hour and a-half, was that the Khalifa, the Amir, and the Sheikhs of the desert tribes did all in their power to protect their interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 43

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 30.)

(No. 19.)

Sir,

Bassorah, April 25, 1903.

CONFlicting accounts have been received here regarding hostilities between the tribes near Kuwait and the movements of Ibn Restid.

The Amiriya, the Dukhan attacked Rindh several times early in April and was repulsed by Abdurrahman-es-Saoud with the loss of some men and horses.

The Amir subsequently retreated.

The Muttair tribe, which had deserted Mubarak, was lately pursued by Abdulla-

-es-Saoud, accompanied by the Sheikh of Kuwait's son Jaber, two or three days

ago from Kuwait. They are reported to have caught the fugitives on whom they

imposed a heavy fine. The Kuwaitis have sent a deputation to the Amir as to his move-

ments and the safety of his party.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 47

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 30.)

Bassorah, May 4, 1903.

WITH the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency a Report on my journeys to Um Karr and Khor Abdullah, the route being shown by the routes taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Report by Acting Consul Crow on his Journey to the Um Karr and Khor Abdullah.

ON the 29th April I rode to Zobeir, accompanied by Mr. Lyle, agent of Messrs. [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted] on day to Um Karr. Zobeir lies in the desert [redacted] a few miles from the coast road. About a mile from the town we passed the site of Old Zobeir, marked by a ruined mosque and the foundations of a few houses, situated on slightly elevated ground. In spring the desert between this

* Not printed.

point and Bussorah is intersected by channels of water formed by the overflow of the Euphrates. When there is a high rise in the river these streams flow as far as the Khor Abdullah, but rapidly diminish as the river falls. The surface of the plain is covered, in consequence, with rich alluvial mud, and the ground might be made exceedingly productive.

There is a shallow trench running about half-way from Bussorah to Zobeir, dry when we passed it, but, every three or four years, sufficiently filled with water to admit of navigation in a "bellam," or native boat, drawing about 6 inches. When the river is abnormally high this trench is joined up to the irrigation canals, which water the date plantations at Bussorah, and a "bellam" can travel from the Shatt-el-Arab to the site of Old Zobeir, a distance of about 12 miles. But these occasions are rare.

The Turkish outpost at Um Kast is 25 to 30 miles from Zobeir. The road lies south-east, and passes near Rafidieh, a farm-house and garden belonging to the Nakib of Bussorah, 6 miles from Zobeir. In winter and early spring the plain, as far as the eye can see, is covered with grass. Between Rafidieh and Zobeir are small patches of tamarisk. There are no wells on the direct road to Um Kast, and caravans prefer the western route via Mount Sinam and Sefwan, where they are plentiful.

The road was smooth and firm. We covered the distance to Um Kast in four hours. There is no creek or channel of water between Um Kast and Zobeir. Shortly after passing Rafidieh the fringe of a great marsh is visible on the east. Heavy winter rains, coupled with a strong south wind, may, and, I am told, sometimes do force the sea as far as the upper confines of this marsh to within a few miles of Rafidieh. At other seasons of the year the tidal flow inland is very small, and does not affect the marsh far beyond Um Kast.

The shore of the Khor Abdullah from the entrance of the Shatt-el-Arab to Um Kast is low alluvial ground, covered in places with reeds and grass, and elsewhere with mud. The water carried in by the tide forms as it were an overflow of the sea, extending inland for some miles. At high tide, this depression is covered with a broad sheet of shallow water, which, at low tide, is transformed into a series of mud flats.

The fort at Um Kast is a small rectangular enclosure, surrounded by a mud wall, loopholed for firing purposes, and containing quarters for the garrison of a Tuz bashi (Captain) and twenty men, who are relieved every three months. The full complement is forty, but only half that number were present. A mud platform runs round the inside of the wall, and the place seems suitably built for defence. It is about a quarter of a-mile from the edge of the creek, and, according to the naval survey, 2 miles from the open sea. Close by is the old ruined fort, where the Turks encamped when the post was first occupied.

We spent the day at Um Kast. There was a spring tide and a southerly wind. At low water, the creek is nothing but a mud flat, with a shallow channel on the western side, through which the tide recedes. At high tide, there is a wide expanse of water to the east as far as the eye can see, and this extends inland, following the natural depression of the ground, for a few miles north-west of Um Kast, in the direction of Rafidieh. It is, however, very shallow. A "bellam" could possibly proceed a couple of miles inland, north-east of Um Kast, at high tide, but its progress would be doubtful. The depth of water at high tide in the creek at Um Kast was not more than three or four feet. Soldiers wade to catch fish, and the water is not above their waist.

As the sea is approached, the water naturally deepens. The naval survey of last year deals fully with the question of soundings at the western junction of the creek with the sea. There is no accommodation for ships of any draught at fort Um Kast. The channel is a shallow mud bed at low water. The nature of the soil and the alluvial deposit lead me to suppose that the work of dredging a sufficient portion of the creek to enable ships to approach Um Kast would be enormous and continuous, as the winter rains occasion constant silting.

As regards a railway terminus, it would probably be found more practical to take the line direct to the sea-board, to the west of Port Um Kast. The ground is slightly elevated and firm. Brackish water is found anywhere in the neighbourhood, at a depth of 4 or 5 feet.

Um Kast is a general watering spot for the Arabs of the desert. Quarrels at the well between the tribes are frequent, and often lead to bloodshed. I am informed that the presence of the Turkish garrison serves to check these disputes.

On our return journey, we skirted the edge of the marsh for a few miles in a north-easterly direction, and then regained the Zobeir road to the north-west.

On another occasion I rode out from Hamdan, a spot situated six miles south of

Bussorah, and thence struck due west across the desert, skirting the marsh to a point considerably south-east of Zobeir. I then turned due south, in the direction of the Khor Abdullah, and found slightly elevated firm ground leading to the sea-shore, which I reached in seven hours from Bussorah. There was a narrow creek running inland, which I take to be the channel marked on the chart as lying about 4 miles north-east of Um Kast. The natives have erected a small cairn of mud and stones on the sea-shore. The creek runs north-west, eventually losing itself in the marsh. The surrounding swamp prevented me from following it for any distance. Um Kast is 4 or 5 miles to the west as the crow flies, but the marsh is impassable. It would have been necessary to make a wide détour of 10 miles or more in order to reach it from this point.

I annex a rough map for convenience, showing the routes taken.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Bussorah, May 4, 1903.

No. 48.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, June 9.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed to your Excellency copies of a despatch dated May 1, 1903, and a telegram dated May 1, 1903, both addressed to the Sheikh of Kuwait, with reference to the arbitration between the Sheikh of Kuwait and his nephews, and of my reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Acting Consul Crow to Acting Consul-General Kemball.

(No. 4. Confidential.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 373 of 5th May, 1903, and to thank you for your kind letter as desired.

The Vali of Bussorah has shown evidence of good will and a desire to hasten a settlement by complying with the Sheikh's request in regard to a further change in the Committee of Arbitration.

I trust the present selection will prove acceptable. The Sheikh on his side should now sign and transmit the reference to arbitration and raise no further obstacles, unless there are grave reasons for contesting the eligibility of the present Arbitrators and Umpire.

Pending a settlement of the questions at issue the Sheikh's nephews are in poor condition, and the Sheikh's interests will best be served by an attitude of compliance.

It is to be presumed that their protection may confidently be intrusted to the persons he has chosen. The opposite parties have an equal right to claim that their representatives shall be intrusted in their concern.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

Acting Consul-General Kemball to Acting Consul Crow

(No. 373. Confidential.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter which I addressed to Sheikh Mubarak of Kuwait on receipt of your telegram dated the 28th ultimo, and also a copy (in translation of the original) which I received yesterday. I also forward the inclosures to Sheikh Mubarak's letter, for perusal and favour of return.

I shall be obliged if you will, after perusal of the correspondence, favour me with your views as to what reply I should send to the Sheikh, and what advice I should give him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 45

Acting Consul-General Kemball to Sheikh Muharek-bin-Sybagh

(After complements.)

I AM writing to you on the subject of the arbitration regarding your properties, about which we have already corresponded.

I have been informed by our Consul at Bussorah that three Arbitrators had been chosen on either side, and that Syyid Ahmed Pasha had been selected as Umpire.

I have now heard from our Consul that you have written a letter to the Wali of Bussorah, in which you decline to accept Seyyid Ahmed Pasha as Umpire, and also two of the Arbitrators appointed by your nephews. I was exceedingly sorry to hear this, as I fear that the arrangement made for the settlement of the matter may now be jeopardized. I would beg to point out to you that your interests are safe in the hands of the Arbitrators whom you have chosen, and it seems to me that your nephews may with justice claim to appoint persons on their side whom they trust. You had, I am informed, already consented to leave the choice of an Umpire in the hands of the Arbitrators, and their choice of Seyyid Ahmed Pasha was unanimous. The Captain of the ship [redacted] has been instructed to do his best to induce you to may safely leave your interests in the hands of the people now appointed to adjudicate the settlement of this long-standing question, but to sign at once the reference to arbitration, and return it to the Wali without delay. I am convinced that it will be to your interest to do so, and you may rest assured that if you accept my advice in the matter the Consul at Bussorah, who has already exerted himself on your behalf will not fail to continue to watch your interests. The present opportunity of bringing about a settlement of the matter is a very good one, and I fear that if lost no such opportunity will occur again. I trust that I shall be favoured with a reply to this letter, and that you will give it to the Captain of the ship, who will bring it to me. I hope that you are in the enjoyment of good health, and that your news is good.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4b.

Sheikh Muhammed-al-Sabah to Acting Consul-General K

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Bull. Seffer, 1321 (May 4, 1903).

I HAVE received your letter dated 3rd Sufir, 1321, and understood contents. As regards the claims of the sons of Mahomed and Jerrab, they have been set up on false pretences, through the instigation of the wicked Yusuf bin Ibrahim, and those who are on their side approve of their proceedings.

On (date blank) an order under No. 405 came from His Majesty the Sultan on the Wali of Bnasorah, during the incumbency of Mahomed Enis Pasha. The order was communicated to me, and I had accepted it. Enis Pasha had appointed the Arbitrators, and I had agreed to accept their decision for or against me, but the boys refused on account of the bad intentions which they and Yusuf entertained. Moreover, during the time Handi Pashu and Mohsin Pasha then wrote to me about their refusal. I am agreeable to accept everything by way of right and gratefulness, but they adopt enmity in their ways. All those who are with them are not well disposed towards me. Their object is to take mine away from me by degrees and by tricks with my consent. I am under your shadow and protection, and am agreeable to that which is right and just. This day with the Sultan and the Wali is this, that the Arbitrators should have no interest in the matter, and have no connection with either

side. I have appointed Kaseem Khadeiri, Aglia Jaffer, and Monsoor Suleiman as
Advisers. They have been at a work of 10 years, and
we trust they will be of great assistance to His Excellency. Abdul Wahab Kertes,
Ahmed Suleiman and Suleiman Ali have also been appointed, and I accept them,
but Abdul Wahab Kertes, Yesil Ali, is a paid agent and sent for his
business matters, while Ahmed Suleiman is a paid servant, and is not a person of weight
and peaceful feelings. As regards Ahmed, brother of the Nakib, he is a disturber of
the peace and a trouble maker from time to time, which prevent me from putting my
trust in him. And now you may have some idea of the details. I must tell
you sister, why we countrymen do not like your protection. All
my affairs are in your hands and under your eyes. It was incumbent on me to let
you know the circumstances and the cause of my fears which I am. In spite of this,
you do not care to listen to me. I have no other alternative but to go to the
British Consul General, Mr. G. W. Ward, who have no objection to my
original. They do not wish the righteous and just people to have anything to do with
the part in this case, whereas the Christians are righteous and just. After you
have done, I will let you know what I desire to

No. 41

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 344. Confidential.)

With reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 256 of the 19th August, 1902, and to my despatch No. 153 of the 24th March last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Bussorah, which I received on the 16th ultimo, relative to the arbitration pending between the Sheikh of Kowit and his nephews, and in the case of Abdul Aziz-bin-Salem, the Sheikh's Bussorah agent, who was condemned to 10 years' imprisonment for subscribing to the seditious newspaper, "Khilosat."

I brought the case of Abdul Axix to the notice of the Grand Vizier on the 18th ultimo, and his Highness promised to do what he could to obtain the man's release, saying that in any case he considered the sentence too severe.

The opinion of Mr. Justice M. C. Goyen is that it would be unwise to accept the documents from the Comptroller, on the ground that he could intrust his documents to no other person.

I subsequently appointed General Viceroy steadily of ADDRA ADD-OM
Salem.

His Highness said that after the last interview I had with him on this subject he had asked for the papers to be sent from Bussorah; that they had not yet arrived, and that he would again telegraph for them. He hoped to be able to meet my views in the matter, and to find some irregularity in the judicial proceedings which would enable him, acting in agreement with the Minister of Justice, to quash the sentence.

I told His Highness that the arbitration between the Sheikh and his nephews was at a standstill, as the former refused to go on with it until his agent was released; that it was important that this question of property, which was pregnant of danger, should be settled with the mutual consent of both parties; that, if the property at stake was left in doubt, a regrettable incident in connection with it might occur at any time, and that His Majesty's Government could not refuse support to the Sheikh of Kuwait if he were clearly wronged and unjustly treated.

the Highness and nob. persons be made to understand, or given him right of interference.

I am advising both the Acting Consul at Bussorah and the British Resident at Erzeroum of the action I have taken. I will see that Mr. Vane's release is effected in consequence of my representations, the Sheikh should be aware that he owes it to the influence and support of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Inclosure in No. 49.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 16. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, April 9, 1903.
IN the course of conversation yesterday the Vali informed me, with reference to the arbitration now pending between the Sikk. of Kuwait and Mubarak, that Mubarak had sent a deputation to the Sultan of Oman at Sohar, and was reported to have been received by the Sultan. M. Wazir, of whom No. 16 of the 2nd June, 1902, was condemned to ten years' imprisonment for importing seditious literature.

His Excellency states that they were very anxious at Constantinople to obtain a special cedula from the Sultan giving him power to do this, and he could easily have done so in his respect, as he felt confident of doing, the Sultan would probably not be averse to expressing his Imperial approval by reprimanding the culprit. Such a step would, he informed me, be doubly felicitous, as it would serve to strengthen Mubarak's allegiance to His Majesty, and would also save the Sultan from the odium of having made the young man a scapegoat for his own sins.

The Vali added that there was no farther development of the situation. Three Arbitrators had been chosen on either side, and they, with Mubarak's consent, have nominated H. S. V. A. P. J. V. as their Umpire. Mubarak has not yet signed the reference to arbitration, but as soon as he did so a telegram would be sent to the arbiters, and would be acted under his Excellency's personal supervision at the Serai.

F. W. CROW.

N. 10

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to thank George Hamilton, afterwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, dated May 16, 1903, in which he has been informed of the interception of a telegram.

India Office, June 20, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Sir,

WITH reference to Foreign Department letter, dated the 26th January last, I have the honour to forward herewith a specimen copy of the leaflet "Naseh-el-Ummeh," together with the cover in which it was received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Extract from the "Naseh-el-Ummeh" of 20th Rabiat-ul-Akbar, 1320 H. (August 1, 1902).

(Transl.)

Kowait.—Our Bushire correspondent writes that Turkish troops have occupied the district of Kowait, and that the powers of the Great Powers have been exercised to make the Persian Gulf safe.

Indeed it is impossible that it should now slip out of their fingers. The English Government will not allow the Turkish Government or the Russian or the French or the German Governments to interfere in the affairs of the Persian Gulf.

The first thing necessary for the English Government is to seize Kowait and Nejd, driving out the Turks from the latter. The Indian papers circulate such foolish threats and reports without cause, while they know that the claim of the Turkish Government is quite clear, and there is no dispute about it. From olden times Kowait is a dependency of Turkish territory. It is on the same footing as the territory under the Mutasif. The Turkish Government have been receiving, when necessary, military aid from Kowait. In 1287 H, when the people of Nejd rebelled against Turkish government, the Sheikhs and the people of Kowait joined the Turkish troops to suppress the rebellion. The allegiance of Kowait is known from the time of Sultan Selim I. Ever since that time the people of Kowait were included in the Turkish army, being under the command of Turkish officers. Ever since that time the Sheikhs of Kowait have been under the orders of the Wali of Bussorah and Bagdad. This assertion of ours is supported by the fact that no Sheikh was appointed to Kowait from olden times, except under the orders of the Turkish Kings, because Kowait has been a division of Turkish territory, being on the east contiguous with Bussorah, on the west and north with Nejd. These are clear proofs that Kowait is a dependency of Turkish Government. The English have no claim to it. They are moved by avarice and aggression. The Turkish Government will not bear it, and they are right. If the English Government do not refrain from aggression upon Kowait, it is possible that the Turkish Government will defend it, and they will be helped by other European Powers because their right to Kowait is quite clear.

Our correspondent from Bussorah writes that the Turkish Government have placed their troops in three places in the district of Kowait, that Sheikh Mubarak was frightened at this, and begged the Turkish Government to forgive him for his past action, and to fix for him a monthly salary; and this was done, as in the case of Ibn-Kashid.

As to Indian Government, when they saw that the Turkish Government were in earnest and active, they wanted to build towers round about Kowait, and to place guns and troops in them. But Sheikh Mubarak declined their proposals, and added that Kowait was Turkish territory, and that he could not place it under the British protection. We praise God for having enabled the Turkish Government to recover its territory, and to turn out its enemies from it.

The Indian papers expressed their extreme regret at the arrival of the French ironclad "Catinat" at Kowait. The papers circulated a report to the effect that when the French Commander visited Sheikh Mubarak, the latter told him arrogantly that, so long as the English Government helped him, he required no help from any one. The Indian papers publish such ridiculous reports, and put them down to Sheikh Mubarak's credit. But Sheikh Mubarak is a wise man. He will address foreign Powers and their officials except in terms which are fit and proper to express. How can they attribute such foolish things to Sheikh Mubarak? We consider such reports as only emanating from mischief-making agency which is working among the Arabs.

Inclosure 3 in No. 50

Government of India to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Simla, May 16, 1903.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 21st February last, forwarding a specimen copy of an Arabic newspaper entitled the "Naseh-el-Ummeh," the circulation of which it was proposed to check.

2. A copy of the issue sent by you was received in October 1902 from the Director-General of the Post Office of India, who had caused it to be intercepted at the post-office at Muscat. Since that date no further copies have been received from this source. The Government of India presume, therefore, that its dissemination has ceased, and do not propose to take any further action in the matter unless the paper reappears.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. RUSSELL.

No. 51

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, ~~for the transmission of a copy of his letter to the Foreign Secretary, S.M., dated the 4th June, respecting Kuwait affairs.~~

India Office, July 3, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.**Bushire, April 25, 1903.*

IN continuation of my Circular Letter No. 1, dated Bushire, 1st April, 1903, and previous correspondence on the subject of the hostilities between Abdul Aziz-bin-Mubarak and Rashid and his nephews, I have the honour to forward to you herewith copy for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter which I have received from Sheikh Mubarak of Kuwait. The news contained in this letter is corroborated by information which has reached me from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Basrah.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Sheikh Mubarak-el-Sabah to Resident, Aden.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

15th Muhamarram, 1321 (A.D. 14, 1903)

A HABIB AL-NASIR AL-KWAIKI ASKED TO ME ON THE 1ST MARCH 1903 to give him a view to attacking it suddenly at night. He reached it on the night of the 4th Muhamarram, 1321, but Abdul Rahman-bin-Faysal-el-Saood and the inhabitants of Rashed were on their guard and went out the next morning to oppose him. They defeated him, killed many of his men, killed and captured many horses and put to flight the rest. The whole country and the tribes have turned out to fight.

Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman-el-Saood, accompanied by his men, reached on the 1st March 1903 with his forces Kwait, and collected the tribes of Nejd and Hedjaz, and on the 2nd Muhamarram went towards Ibn Rashid's tribes. On the 9th Muhamarram he attacked them, killed many of their Headmen, and captured their cattle. The Headmen who have been killed are Nakib bin-Jaber bin Sheikh Abdeh, a relative of Ibn Rashid, and Mazaor, a dependent of Ibn Rashid. The Sheikhs of the Mutayer tribe who have been killed are Ammash-el-Daieh, Faysal-el-Daieh, Abdulla-el-Daieh and many others. This news is true, and I am communicating it to you for information.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

Acting Consul Crou to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Basrah, May 26, 1903.

THE arbitration of the Court has been accepted by the Sheikh of Kuwait, who has signed and returned the reference to the Vali.

The sittings will begin shortly.

The Sheikh's statement that Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim has arrived at Dora is not confirmed. I am, &c. at [redacted] of [redacted]. I have wired Colonel Keatall.

Inclosure 4 in No. 51.

Acting Consul Crou to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Basrah, May 29, 1903.

PLEASE see previous correspondence regarding Kuwait arbitration.

Mutual friends of both parties are endeavouring to settle, out of Court, their differences in regard to property, and a draft proposal has been submitted to the Sheikh, by which the nephews agree to accept less than their legal share. If Sheikh agrees, arbitration will be unnecessary, and deeds will be executed in the usual way before the Qada.

This course is approved by Vali, and no objections have been raised by me.

No. 52.

*Foreign Office to India Office.**Foreign Office, July 4, 1903.*

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople^{*} relative to the arbitration pending between the Sheikh of Kuwait and his nephews, and reporting his language to the Grand Vizier on the question of the release from imprisonment of Abdul Aziz-bin-Salem, the Sheikh's Basrah Agent.

Lord Lansdowne would propose, if the Secretary of State for India concurs, to approve the proceedings of Sir N. O'Conor, as reported in this despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 53

Acting Consul Crou to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, July 5.)

(No. 26. Confidential.)

Sir,

Basrah, June 8, 1903.

IN my telegram No. 33 of the 25th ultmo. I had the honour to inform your Excellency that the Sheikh of Kuwait had accepted the Court of Arbitration and signed and returned the reference to the Vali. Shortly before this Abdul Wahab Pasha of Kartas, a friend of the nephews who, though not a member of the Court, seems to be acting as *amicus curiae*, proffered his services to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute, and a draft proposal was submitted by him to Mubarek, in conjunction with Haji Mansur Chelebi, one of the Sheikh's Arbitrators, who assisted him in drawing it up.

Kartas, who called upon me with reference to the arbitration, and who has been ~~informed~~ of the rights of the case, as viewed from the nephews' standpoint, assured me that the proposed arrangement was a very favourable one for Mubarek, and that the nephews were accepting less than their legal rights in consenting to it.

From a letter which the Sheikh of Kuwait addressed to the Resident at Bushire on the 1st June the proffered settlement seems to have been quite the other way. Zein Ajerawich and Gherdilan were to be given up to the nephews entirely, and one-third of the Fao and Sosich properties besides. Mubarek has declined it, and has introduced a new element into the case by demanding the release of his former Agent, Abdul Aziz bin Salim-el-Bader, now in prison, before beginning the arbitration. The Sheikh alleges that he has important documents in his possession relative to the case, and can intrust them to no one else. He has, accordingly, instructed his Representatives to take no further steps in the matter till this man is released. The Vali, who admits the severity of the Agent's sentence, and says they must do something for him, is willing, as already reported, to assist in getting the sentences commuted as soon as the Sabah family property dispute is settled, but this does not satisfy Mubarek, who evidently hopes to secure his release merely by consenting to arbitrate.

I inclose a copy of a letter, which I sent to-day to the Resident at Bushire, asking him to give the Sultan's instructions, and to see the proper qu...
Mubarek's attitude throughout the negotiations has been so tricky and childish
that I...
arbitration. If, as is averred, he is withholding important documents, the Arbitrators cannot possibly arrive at an equitable understanding. He admits himself that he has papers which he will only confide to someone, who happens to be out of reach. My only conclusion is, therefore, that he does not intend them to come to an understanding
arbitrate, considering himself at liberty to withdraw from any proceedings if they are not entirely to his liking.

As the Vali admits he has no means of coercing the Sheikh of Kuwait, and I...
Turkish...
forcing Mubarek into an arrangement, which may very probably be distasteful to him.

In the meantime, I am informed that the Sheikh has been raiding again. He is reported to have attacked the Beni Twala of the Shammar Arabs, belonging to the Amir, at a place called Khanissiye about the middle of last month, and to have captured 400 (sic) camels. Khanissiye is near Qadashiya, some 10 hours distance from Zobeir in a south-west direction. His malevolent relative, Mubarok-el-Athbi of Zobeir, who accompanied the Beni Twala, escaped.

The reports regarding the return of Yusuf-el-Ibrahim to these parts are untrue. Mubarek...
Zobeir and thence to Dornah. I mentioned the matter to the Vali, who assured me that...
water, where certain lady members of his family have been told to join him," so the Vali told me. I...
travelled to Mecca, where I...
Mecca and went to Dornah after performing quarantine here. Mubarek's informants probably confused the names.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inlosure in No. 8

Acting-Counsel Crow to British Resident, Bushire.

(No. 8.)

Bussorah, June 8, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a letter addressed to you by the Sheikh of Kuwait, dated the 24th April.

The Sheikh is under no obligation to accept the proposed amicable settlement, which...
Arabs...
every mitigation of good faith to stand by the settlement by arbitration, and to abide by the terms of the Arbitrators' award.

I am sorry to learn that he has instructed his lawyer and his Arbitrators to despatch a...
against paper...
any case.

In fact he imposes the release of this man as a condition precedent to any arrangement.

The Sheikh's proper course is to leave the property question in the hands of the Arbitrators to be decided according to law and equity, and to place all necessary documents in the hands of his Representatives. When settlement has been effected the Vali promises to use his good offices with the Sultan to get Abdul Aziz's sentence

commuted. But I do not think Mubarek will gain anything by bringing him forward before.

As the line adopted by the Sheikh delays proceedings, I would ask you to be so good as to urge him to adopt this course and to do nothing which may disturb the present arrangements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 8

Acting Counsel Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, July 18.)

(No. 28 Confidential.)

Bussorah, June 13, 1903.

Sir,
MY telegrams during April and May will have given your Excellency an outline of the negotiations preparatory to the Sultan's final acceptance of the Court of Arbitration, and of the obstacles by which they have been impeded. In order, however, to keep your Excellency more fully informed of the steps taken by the Vali and myself in the matter, I will briefly summarize the various stages of the proceedings in the order they have occurred.

My first interviews with the Vali gave me the impression that his Excellency was somewhat unwilling to admit my active interference in the arbitration, regarding it as a matter exclusively within the competence of the Ottoman authorities, and the position of the Consulate as that of a friendly onlooker, whose interest in the welfare of one of the parties made it desirable to keep informed of what passed.

In order to dislodge the Vali's mind of this notion, I went for the vilayet Dragoman and desired him to point out to his Excellency that my locus standi in the matter was based on my official instructions; that, according to them, the arbitration would be conducted under the supervision of the Consulate; that I was not only to be kept informed of all steps taken, but also to be invited to attend the proceedings, and that, if his Excellency attended the sittings of the Court, I was instructed to be present as well. I asked him to tell the Vali that I desire to see the Arbitrators and I...
I...
as soon as possible, in order to discuss matters with them directly.

I received a message in reply that his Excellency quite understood the position of the Consulate, and would keep me fully informed but that I was precluded from writing officially on the matter, and hoped that if he met my wishes privately it would be sufficient. He added that there was no question of his attending the meetings, at which only the Arbitrators and Umpire would be present.

Mubarek's representatives then called on me, and I explained to them and to Seyyed Ahmed Pasha, the Umpire, whom I visited later, that the Consulate took an active interest in the conduct of the negotiations, and requested them to keep me informed of everything that passed. They were none of them very sanguine of success, but I was favourably impressed with Haji Mansur Chelebi and the Umpire, Seyyed Ahmed Pasha, who took a sensible view of the question and discussed it freely.

When I exchanged these visits the reference paper, which had been sent to the Sheikh for examination, had not yet been returned. On the 24th April I called again on the Vali, as I had heard that Mubarek had refused to accept the Court as it stood, and his Excellency informed me that the Sheikh objected to Seyyed Ahmed as Umpire and to two of nephews' nominees, one of whom was Abdul Wahab-el-Kartas, on the ground that they were interested persons, hostile to himself, and openly allied with his enemy Yusuf-el-Ibrahim. The Vali assured me that Mubarek was needlessly apprehensive, and remarked that the nephews were free to choose their own friends to represent them, in the same way as the Sheikh had chosen his, and that if they showed any personal feeling in the matter, such bias would be counterbalanced by the votes of the opposite side. It was not reasonable, he said, that the Sheikh should seek to have the whole Court on his side.

He added that it was the second time that Mubarek had raised objections to the nominees, and that as regards the Umpire, he has consented to leave the choice to the Arbitrators themselves, who had unanimously selected the Nakib's brother, as being a man of great intelligence and living much apart, the Vali considered him to be entirely without bias. He finally begged me to communicate with the Sheikh, and to do what was possible to prevent the arrangements from falling through.

I told the Vali the Sheikh might have good cause to distrust the Umpire. I did not attach much importance to the personal feelings of the nephews' Arbitrators, as their voices would be met by those of Mubarek's representatives, and I judged the latter capable of defending his interests. But it was essential, I thought, to have a trustworthy and impartial person as Umpire. Personally, I told him, I approved of Seyyed Ahmed, but I was new to the place, and could not trust my own judgment entirely in the matter. I promised his Excellency to communicate with Mubarek and to try and bring him to terms.

I accordingly telegraphed to your Excellency and to India on the 25th April, and wrote privately to the Resident at Bushire, requesting him to urge the Sheikh to withdraw his objections, and not to jeopardize the arbitration. I told him I thought Mubarek's interests were in good hands, and that he might rest assured I would watch them, and exert myself on his behalf.

I then had another interview with the Umpire, Seyyed Ahmed, and found he had no knowledge of the Sheikh's objections to himself, and, as I hoped that the arrangements would ultimately remain undisturbed, I did not think it necessary to enlighten him.

On the 6th May the Resident at Bushire sent me copies of his letter to Mubarek, and of the answer he had received. He also sent me translations of the correspondence which had passed between the Sheikh and the Vali. The Resident asked my opinion as to what he should say in reply. The Sheikh, in these letters, stated his reasons for objecting to the nephews' Arbitrators, and claimed that, according to the text of the Imperial Trade, they should be persons without connection with, or interest in, either side.

He said he had personal reasons for distrusting the Umpire, and did not wish to trouble him. Kartas he denounced as hostile to himself, and an open friend of his arch enemy Yussuf-el-Ibrahim. He suggested Mr. Lyle, Meers, Gray Mackenzie's Bussorah agent, or Khalil Isfendi, the vilayet Dragoman, as Umpire. Colonel Kemball advised the Sheikh to accept Arbitrators or an Umpire of whom he disapproved, and suggested that the Sheikh's objections to Seyyed Ahmed might be well groundless, as Mubarek knew him better than we did.

On the 10th May the Vali told me he wished to meet the Sheikh's wishes as far as possible, in order not to delay the settlement, and stated that he had written to Mubarek, after consulting his representatives, and had proposed the Mufti as Umpire, and two Sheikhs of Zobere in place of the persons eliminated.

On the 11th May I informed the Resident at Bushire of the change, and asked him to urge the Sheikh not to raise fresh obstacles, unless he had grave cause for contesting the eligibility of the persons now chosen. I observed that as the Vali had red goodwill, the Sheikh on his side should show compliance, and that his representatives were entitled to his confidence.

This correspondence was forwarded to your Excellency in my despatch No. 21, Confidential, of the 11th May. I did not inclose translations of the Sheikh's correspondence with the Vali, as I presumed these would reach your Excellency through the Agent of India.

On the 18th May Abul Wahab-el-Kartas, with whom I had discussed the arbitration, called on me, and stated he was submitting a joint proposal with Hajji Mansur to the Sheikh, by which the nephews agreed to accept less than their rights, he said, would obviate the necessity of arbitration if accepted by Mubarek.

I replied that the Vali had already mentioned the subject to me, and that I saw no objection, provided it was a *bond fide* scheme. He explained the scheme to me, and I said I was glad to hear the views of the opposite side, but that, without consulting Mubarek's representatives, I could not possibly say whether they would prove acceptable to the Sheikh or not.

I then asked the Vali whether he knew the terms of the proposed scheme, and he admitted that he did not, but said that they were approved by Hajji Mansur. I communicated with the latter, and asked for a statement of Mubarek's claim. But he said he could tell me nothing till he had heard from Mubarek himself, and although I sent him a copy of Kartas' exposé of the nephews' claims, he declined to critique it for the present.

On the 24th May the Resident at Bushire telegraphed to me that Mubarek accepted the Court of Arbitration, and had signed and returned the reference to the Vali. The Sheikh stated that Yussuf-el-Ibrahim had returned to Dornah.

The Vali, whom I visited on the 25th May, said the papers had been signed, and

the representatives of the nephews and the Umpire accepted by the Sheikh, but they were anxious to hear the result. I told him it was better to strike while the iron was hot, and said I thought the arbitrators should lose no time in beginning their work. His Excellency, however, seemed to attach weight to the possibility of a *bond fide* scheme. He denied all knowledge of Yussuf-el-Ibrahim's return. I called on Kartas, where I met Saoud, one of the nephews, and urged the former to use his influence to bring matters to a speedy conclusion. He assured me that Yussuf-el-Ibrahim was in the Kassim district near Boreyda. A report had reached me that the Sheikh had attacked Shammar Arabs belonging to the Amir to the south-west of Zobeir, and captured 800 camels. I communicated with the Vali, who confirmed it. His Excellency was greatly incensed at Mubarek's duplicity, and said that such action on his part was in strange opposition to his fair promises to live quietly and submit his differences to arbitration.

I was engaged for several days in making inquiries regarding the alleged reappearance of Yussuf-el-Ibrahim. The Vali, at my request, summoned the Mudir

of the *Shammar* and made inquiries at Fao, Boreyda and Zobeir,

but I sent a special messenger. I could find no trace of him anywhere.

His Excellency was less favourable to Mubarek than Kartas had represented.

He instructed his lawyer and Arbitrators not to begin the work till this had been ascertained, and at the same time he directed that the *Shammar* should be left in peace.

He instructed his lawyer and Arbitrators not to begin the work till this had been ascertained.

I accordingly, wrote to the Resident and explained that Mubarek was under no obligation to accept the Arbitrators, but that I had done so with the course of the arbitration proceedings. I asked him to urge the Sheikh not to go back on his word, and at the same time, to assure Mubarek that I had made independent inquiries regarding Yussuf-el-Ibrahim, and that he had not returned.

The present state of the case remains as reported to your Excellency in my telegram No. 27 and my despatch No. 26, Confidential, of the 6th June.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 112.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, July 18, 1903.

KOWEIT. His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah telegraphs as follows:—
"No. 59 of 27th July. Sheikh of Kowet is reported to be trying to restore the Sultanate of *Zobere* by force, and to have planted an expedition with this object. The inhabitants of *Zobere* will be accompanied by Abdul Aziz Bin Saud, who has been at Kowet collecting tribesmen, and who will march on Boreyda." (Sent to Bushire and Secretary of State for India.)"

With apprehension the consequences which might possibly result from such restlessness of the *Zobere* tribesmen, and political reasons for preserving his independence, and have forbidden the Turks to attack or molest him, I submit for consideration the expediency of controlling his action by appointing a Resident at Kowet.

No. 56.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 23.)

S.R. India Office, July 22, 1903.
I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 18th instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador to the Sultan of *Zobere*, reporting that the Sheikh of Kowet

your language to the Grand Vizier on the question of the release from imprisonment
of _____'s Bussorah agent
proceedings, as reported in your despatch, are approved by His
Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
Signed LANSDOWNE

No. 61

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 31st July, relative to the proposed appointment of a Resident at Kuwait.

India Office, August 1, 1903

Inclosure in No. 61

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

July 31, 1903.

YOUR telegram of the 21st July. Proposal to appoint Resident at Kuwait I have submitted Political Resident in Persian Gulf who replies

I understand that proposal is for the appointment of a British officer, in which case it is, in my opinion, likely to impose upon us an inconvenient responsibility. Preliminaries, and he has not been able to obtain protection or redress from Turkey. I presume that our only concern is the maintenance of Kuwait independence by naval power, and it seems to me that our undertaking to keep Sheikh in order must involve our responsibility for affording him redress in case of internal raids. In existing circumstances, he has to take his own measures to protect himself and even if he goes so far as to support nominally those of his friends who are now revolting against the Amir of Nejd, I do not see that we can or need object, nor that Turkey has any grounds for objection, as she has never, to the best of my knowledge, attempted, or even desired, to interfere between the Wahabis and the Amir of Nejd. At the same time, with a view to maintaining trade and procuring more accurate information of the progress of events, it is desirable that we should have more competent representation at Kuwait. For this purpose, our Consul at Mombasa might be given the additional charge of Kuwait, in respect to which he would be placed under the orders of the Resident in the Persian Gulf, who could place the "Lawrence" at his disposal, to enable him to visit Kuwait occasionally, if no gun-boat was available."

Admitting the force of these representations, I consider that, for the following reasons, any probable disadvantages would be outweighed by the advantages of having a British Officer at Kuwait.—

First, the appointment would be substantial evidence that we intended to preserve and utilize the privileges we already enjoy; secondly, it should give us the means of gradually acquiring more reliable information as to real state of affairs in the interior of Arabia, where tribal politics may easily give rise to difficult questions; thirdly, we should be in a better position to watch Turkish proceedings in the neighbourhood of Kuwait, and, lastly, we should strengthen our right to controlling voice in ultimate destination of Bagdad Railway.

It still appears to us that our proposals to place Mombasa and Kuwait under single Indian officer afford most economical solution, and we do not understand reasons for their recent rejection by His Majesty's Government. If double jurisdiction is considered objectionable, we are in favour of course proposed by Sir N. O'Connor, with the proviso that the connection between Kuwait and Bussorah is in no way strengthened or recognized.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 28th May, relative to the Kuwait Arbitration Case.

India Office, August 1, 1903

Inclosure 1 in No. 62

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Bushire, May 28, 1903

I HAVE the honour to invite a reference to the correspondence ending with my telegram, dated the 8th May, on the subject of the Arbitration between Sheikh Mubarak of Kuwait and his nephews with respect to the family estates situated within Turkish territory.

The Sheikh's objections to the Umpire and two of the Arbitrators selected by him having been considered by the Wali of Bussorah, his Excellency arranged that another Umpire should be appointed, and two other Arbitrators substituted for those objected to by Sheikh Mubarak.

I have now received a letter from the Sheikh informing me that he agrees to the new Umpire as now constituted, and has signed and returned to the Wali the document by which he agrees to refer the case to arbitration.

I have informed His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah by telegram.

Sheikh Mubarak has further informed me that his enemy, Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, has returned to Dornah. This report, if true, is somewhat disquieting at the present time, when a settlement of the dispute between the Sheikh and his nephews seems possible.

I have informed Mr. Crow of what I have heard, but he, of course, will have received earlier information on the subject if the news is true.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62

Mr. Crow, Acting Consul at Bussorah, to Government of India.

June 15, 1903

(Telegraphic) INFORMATION has reached me that the Sheikh of Kuwait has sent a Petition to Yildiz, begging for the release of his Agent, and stating that the Arbitration is progressing favourably.

As reported in my telegram No. 67, the Agent is at present in a state till, as the Sheikh has instructed his Representatives not to set until his Agent is released, in order that we can take charge of his papers. The Sheikh is ~~now~~ ^{at} Dornah, where the Vaji and I have, therefore, proposed to the latter that the papers should be intrusted to me. If you approve, please telegraph, and I will ask the Resident in the Persian Gulf to arrange.

May I hold out any hope to the Sheikh of Kuwait in regard to the release of his Agent? The Vaji says that, until the Arbitration is finished, he cannot move in the matter.

(Sent to Colonel Kemball)

Inclosure 3 in No. 61

Mr. Crow, Acting Consul at Bassorah, to Government of India

(Telegraphic)

Bassorah, June 18, 1903.
I HAVE sent the following telegram, dated the 16th June, to the British Ambassador at [redacted]

"I sent for the Sheikh's lawyer yesterday. He says that the Sheikh is ready to effecting the release of his Agent. The Sheikh's Petition was telegraphed too much in Arabic."

"I report that it was a matter for the Sultan - coveney, and that I could hold out no hope of anything being done until the Arbitration was finished, but that I would

"Indeasur offered himself to the Vali as security for the Sheikh's good behaviour, and he agreed to do so. They were eager however to obtain the immediate release of his Agent. The Vali declined the offer. If the Agent is liberated, the Turks seem to be afraid that the Sheikh will not settle his differences with

"I have also telegraphed as follows, under date the 15th June, to [redacted]

"If the Petition of the Sheikh of Kuwait is referred to the Vali the latter will do his best to see that the Agent is released before the end of May, as a proof of the little faith which can be placed in the Sheikh's promises. I reported the attack in my despatch No. 20 of the 8th June, but [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]."

"Mr. Lyle went to Kuwait on Monday, and I asked him to make independent inquiries, and report the result.

Inclosure 4 in No. 62

Government of India to Colonel Hemball

(Telegraphic)

KUWAIT Arbitration

Following two telegrams from Consul, Bassorah

"Ambassador is urging Grand Vizier to arrange for re-investigation of the case. His Excellency wishes you to know, as you may think it advisable [to] inform

"Can you arrange for Sheikh of Kuwait to intrust his [redacted] for their safety, and strengthen my hands in the matter of the supervision.

I see no objection in informing Sheikh [that] Ambassador is trying to obtain release of Agent. We should be right in doing so, and I agree, arrange for their transmission to Consul, at the same time urging Sheikh not to put further difficulties in the way of Arbitration.

Please telegraph if you agree

Inclosure 5 in No. 62.

Government of India to Colonel Hemball

(Telegraphic.)

YOL R telegram 20th June, Kuwait. No objection to action proposed.

Shiraz, June 2

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No. 63.

Foreign Office to India Office

Foreign Office, August 6, 1903

Sir,
I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* reporting that the Sheikh of Kuwait has asked for

discussing the advisability of allowing him to do so.

Lord G. Hamilton will recollect that the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf was authorized, on the 17th February, 1899, immediately after the conclusion of the Kuwait Agreement, to inform the Sheikh that His Majesty's Government would "do what they can to protect him and his brothers in the matter of their estates near Fao."

In view of this assurance, Lord Lansdowne is disposed to agree with Sir N. O'Conor in thinking that, if His Majesty's Government were to prevent Sheikh Mubarak from visiting Fao, they might be forced to assume the responsibility for any difficulties which may arise in respect of his property in those regions.

I am to request that Lord Lansdowne may be favoured with Lord George Hamilton's observations on the subject.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 64.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 4th August, relative to the proposed visit of the Sheikh of Kuwait to his property near Fao.

India Office, August 12, 1903

Inclosure 6 in No. 61

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India

(Telegraphic.) P

August 8, 1903

SIR N. O'CONOR reports, and is disposed to assent to, Sheikh of Kuwait's request, communicated to him through Bushire and Bassorah, for permission to visit his Fao property. Please let me know your views as soon as possible.

No. 65

Foreign Office to India Office

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, August 13, 1903

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, forwarding copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of India, in which he advertises the appointment of a British Resident at Kuwait, proposed by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople unless the alternative proposal of the Government of India be accepted, that an officer of the Indian Service should be appointed Consul at Muhammara, who should also have Kuwait under his superintendence and be provided with a vessel for the purpose of making frequent visits to that place.

As the Secretary of State for India is aware, Lord Lansdowne is of opinion that the Consul at Muhammara should devote his attention to the very important questions

of trade and roads in that locality and the surrounding districts. It appears to Lord Lansdowne to be undesirable that he should be taken away from these duties for the purpose of dealing with an entirely different class of questions connected with Turkish Arabia. His Lordship is unable to see that there is any force in the argument advanced by the Viceroy that visits to Koweit by His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah would strengthen and recognise the connection between that vilayet and Koweit. The Consul is at the present moment the necessary intermediary. It may equally be argued that visits by His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire to Bahrein indicate a connection between the latter island and Persia.

Lord Lansdowne does not, however, wish to press the proposal, suggested originally by the Secretary of State for India, that the British Consul at Bussorah should be placed in regular superintendence over Koweit.

The present system under which His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire, and his officers, is the ordinary means of communicating with the Sheikh has, on the whole, worked well. On the other hand, the appointment of a British officer to reside at Koweit permanently could scarcely be considered otherwise than as a departure from the *status quo*, on the maintenance of which His Majesty's Government have hitherto laid so much stress in their discussions with the Porte, and Lord Lansdowne would be averse to such a measure unless the necessity for it is clearly apparent. If it should be considered expedient to resort to it, it would probably be best that the officer selected should at first visit Koweit temporarily from Bushire, and repeat his visits at intervals until his residence became practically permanent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 67.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 14.)

Sir,

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Conor's telegram No. 112 of the 18th ultimo, and to my letter of the 20th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a telegram to the Viceroy on the subject of the expediency of appointing a British Resident to Koweit, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to enclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 31st July, 1903, reporting the views of the Resident in the Persian Gulf and of the Government of India upon the proposal.*

As to the Viceroy's reference to the proposal to place Koweit under the charge of the Consul at Mohammerah, it appears to Lord George Hamilton that, apart from the reasons which led to the recent decision to retain Mr. McDouall in that post, there are objections to entrusting our relations with the Sheikh of Koweit to a Consular officer residing in Persian territory. Moreover, His Lordship is unable to understand in what respect such an arrangement would be preferable to that which at present exists, by which Koweit is under the general superintendence of the Consul-General at Bushire, who is also Political Resident for the whole of the Persian Gulf, and who has a steam-ship at his disposal for the purpose of visiting the ports under his charge when it is necessary to do so.

With regard to the proposed appointment of a Consul to Koweit. It appears to Lord George Hamilton that such a step would scarcely be in harmony with the views already expressed by His Majesty's Government that Koweit is within the Turkish Empire. This point, however, is one pre-eminently for the Foreign Office to consider, and, apart from this, his Lordship is inclined to attach more weight to the reasons given by the Viceroy in favour of the appointment than to those urged against it by Colonel Kemball. As an alternative he would suggest that it will be sufficient for the present to instruct the Consul-General at Bushire to depute an officer to visit Koweit from time to time, remaining there for such periods as may be suitable. Business connected with the Sheikhs at Koweit with Turkish officials at Bussorah would, as at present, be conducted through His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

* Not printed.

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No. 67.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and to Lord G. Hamilton, forwards herewith, with reference to Foreign Office letter of the 5th instant, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 13th August, on the subject of the Sheikh of Koweit and his property near Fao.

India Office, August 13, 1903.

Inclination to No. 67.

Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to your telegram, about Koweit, of the 8th instant I have consulted Kemball, who replies that, in his opinion, there is no objection to the Sheikh paying a visit to his possessions near Fao. I concur in this view. Kemball reports that writing last month, Mubarak intimated to him his wish to go to Fao for the purpose of arranging for the annual sale of his crops and of examining improvements, and asked me how I thought. Kemball thought the general arrangement should, having consulted the Consul at Bussorah, replied to Mubarak to that effect, but added that he presumed the Bussorah Vali had been duly informed by the Sheikh of his intent. (9)

August 18, 1903.

No. 68.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 17.)

(No. 27. Confidential.)

Bussorah, July 18, 1903.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to submit a Report on the dispute regarding the appropriation of real property, situated in Turkey, between the members of the Sabah family of Koweit, which has been referred to arbitration here. My information is the outcome of conversations on the subject with Haji Manaur, the Sheikh of Koweit's principal Arbitrator; Abdul Haq and Elford, Mubarak's lawyer; and Abdul Wahab-el-Hirne, who stands in close proximity to the Sheikh of Koweit's nephews.

The property in dispute consists of date gardens at Fao and Sofeh, on the Shatt-el-Arab, and other landed property at Kut-i-Zeyn, an island in the Shatt near Mohammerah, and Gherdilan and Acrewive, on the borders of the Shatt.

A manor house situated in the name of Mohamed-es-Sabah, Mubarak's deceased brother, and his wife, is divided equally between Mubarak and the descendants of Mohamed and Jerrah; but Mubarak's mother is entitled to one-sixth of the share of Mohamed and Jerrah. The division would, therefore, be: one-third to Mubarak, one-fourth to the heirs of Mohamed-es-Sabah, one-fourth to the heirs of Jerrah-es-Sabah, and one-sixth to Mubarak's mother.

As regards Fao and Sofeh, the parties are at variance. According to Mubarak's intention, the Fao property only belonged to his grandfather Jaber, and is to be divided among the latter's descendants; but Ali, the son of Jaber, having disposed of his share to Daj, his collateral, whose descendants Mubarak now represents, and Ali's mother, the wife of Jaber, having been divorced and her three daughters forfeiting thereby all claim to inheritance, the portion of this estate accruing to Mubarak and the persons he represents is considerably larger than the opposite side are prepared to admit. According to the Sheikh's somewhat complicated computation, as given me by his lawyer, Fao is divided into 45 hda (a local land measure); 12 belong to Daj, deceased, whom Mubarak represents; 3 are divided in equal shares between Mubarak and the children of his brother Mohamed, deceased; 12 are divided among all the descendants of their grandfather and great-grandfather Jaber, in ratios of two-fifths to the children of Mohamed and Jerrah, deceased, and three-fifths to Mubarak and the persons he represents; and of the remaining

19, one-fifth falls to the children of Mohamed and Jerrah, deceased, and four-fifths to Mubarek. The Sofieh property, according to the Sheikh's contention, belonged to his father Sabah, and is to be appropriated in ratios of two-fifths to the heirs of Mohamed and Jerrah and three-fifths to himself and the persons he represents. Reduced to ordinals of 100, Mubarek claims that, of Jaber's property, his side are entitled to $\frac{2}{5}$, and the other side $\frac{3}{5}$; and of Sabah's property, $\frac{2}{5}$ belong to his side and $\frac{3}{5}$ to the other.

The contention of the nephews and their party is, briefly, that both Fao and Sofieh belongs to Jaber, and are inherited by his three sons, Ali, Day, and Sabah, and their descendants in equal shares, and they claim, accordingly, $\frac{2}{5}$ of both these properties, that Ali's mother, the wife of Jaber, was never divorced, and that her three daughters and their descendants are entitled to her inheritance; that the sons of Mohamed-es-Sabah inherit Jaber, in right of their mother, one of Ali's daughters; that the children of Jerrah also inherit from Ali, in right of their mother, another of Ali's daughters; that the descendants of Mohamed and Jerrah have no share in Day's inheritance; that Ab-el-Jaber did not dispose of his share to Day, and that the portion appropriated to the latter is, therefore, not as large as Mubarek asserts; that the children of Mohamed and Jerrah inherit from Sabah's share, in right of their respective fathers, Sabah's sons.

I am informed by Haji Mansur that Mubarek's claim on the Fao and Sofieh estate as stated above, is legally untenable, these properties having been both bequeathed by Jaber. By the Sheri law, the three sons of Jaber and their descendants inherit in equal shares, if there is nothing to prove the conveyance of Ab-el-Jaber's share to Day or the divorce of Ali's mother. No document has been produced in support of Mubarek's contention, and it is not believed that any such document exists. It is suggested, however, that a deed of more than doubtful legality was executed by Mubarek's order in his own favour after the assassination of his brother Mohamed-es-Sabah. Mubarek vouches no answer to the very pertinent inquiries made by Haji Mansur on this crucial point, and, in fact, begs the question altogether.

If the claims of the parties as they now stand were submitted to arbitration on a legal basis, there is, I am informed by Mubarek's own Arbitrator, no doubt that the Sheikh's contention would be rebutted and the award in the Fao and Sofieh dispute would be unequivocably in favour of the nephews. It does not seem, however, to be the Sheikh's intention to give the Arbitrators full powers in the matter, as may be inferred from the translation of the Sheikh's own letter included. Nor would the Arbitrators, his friends, undertake the unenviable task of giving a decision wholly adverse to Mubarek. Haji Mansur told me that, as far as he was concerned, he would certainly withdraw from the affair altogether if the Sheikh refused to come to a friendly understanding. So much for the impartiality of the proceedings. A Court of Arbitration has, indeed, been constituted according to the Islamic, and has been nominally accepted by the parties, but the purpose of all concerned is rather to effect an amicable compromise, in which both sides concur, and which the Arbitrators will take the necessary steps to render binding.

With this object in view, Haji Mansur is, on the one hand, corresponding directly with Mubarek, and, on the other, consulting the nephews in conjunction with Abdul Wahab-e-Kirana. It must be borne in mind that the Sheikh has effectively checked all progress in the matter of arbitration pure and simple as at first arranged, by writing to each of his representatives in turn, and forbidding them to act until Abdu'l Aziz Bin Salem-el-Bauer, his agent, is released from prison. On the other hand, the Sheikh has informed the British Resident at Bushire that he has adopted this course solely because he fears the hostile influence of the Vahi on his representatives, and hopes to delay proceedings till the Vahi of Bassorah, Mustapha Nuri, Pasha, is changed. The Vahi, no doubt, does exercise his influence to the prejudice of Mubarek's interests by giving directions to the Arbitrators, but this is difficult to prevent in Turkey, where all Ottoman subjects stand in the dish awe of the authorities, and where arbitrary proceedings and unscrupulous interference by Government officials in the private concerns of the individual are the acknowledged order of the day. Moreover, Mubarek is unwilling to increase the hostility of the Vahi by favouring me with his full confidence, and so placing in my hands a weapon with which to protect him. However, the main object being to compromise the differences between the parties, the Sheikh's veto is no bar to a friendly understanding, and this will, no doubt, appeal more to the primitive sense of justice of a Bedouin Arab than any hard-and-fast decision delivered after due and legal consideration of the points in dispute.

I have received a letter from the Sheikh of Kuwait, dated the 6th July, forwarding a copy of his reply of the same date to a communication addressed to him by Haji Mansur on the 25th June. I annex a translation of the measure, as it is of interest and shows the feelings by which Mubarek is actuated. I have discussed its contents with Haji Mansur, and have referred to it through the Resident of Bushire. In this letter the

Sheikh agrees to the division of Kut-i-Zeyn, Gherdilan, and Ajerawiye, as already stated. "Two-thirds less a sixth" means that two-thirds go to the nephews and those they represent, less one-sixth to Mubarek's mother.

The Sheikh remarks that Haji Mansur would understand the appropriation of the Fao shares and those of Sofieh, on the lines he indicates, if he saw the papers. He has been repeatedly asked to produce the document on which he bases his claim, but consistently refused to do so, and has been assured that he will keep at a distance. The authorities have no desire to see him, and will oppose his return.

The Sheikh's private property at Duwasir, in exchange for their shares in Fao, has been submitted to them, and they agree to Mubarek's terms. But, here again, the question of equivalent turns on the appropriation of the Fao shares. If Mubarek's claim to the lion's portion of Fao can be legally supported by documentary evidence—that is, if he can prove that Ab-el-Jaber disposed of his share to Day, and that, consequently, his share is to be added to the Sheikh's own share as Day's representative, and if he can prove the divorce of Ab-el-Jaber's mother, and her children do not inherit—then the equivalent will naturally be less than the nephews anticipate. If, on the other hand, the contention of the opposite side is maintained, namely, that Fao and Sofieh are, in their entirety, the lawful inheritance of all the descendants of Jaber in equal shares, as would be the case according to the Sheri law—a difficult question to elucidate in a Bedouin country, where the parties are dead—

oposal
tute, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Enclosure to No. 68

Sheikh of Kuwait to Mr. Crow

Translation.)

July 6, 1903.

FORWARDS copy of letter addressed by the Sheikh of Kuwait to Haji Mansur Salman regarding the division of his property and his differences with his nephews.

To Haji Mansur Salman

After compliments.)

11 Rebbetan-Ram (July 6, 1903).

me to state what I claim. You know, my brother, that we have never stopped from the beginning, and that we desire the boy's comfort, but they are obstinate, and intrude under the guidance of that wicked man, Yussuf-e-Ibrahim. Oh! brother, this is neither just nor right. I obey and put up with all the harm they do. They get others to help them, and we and our property are treated with contumely.

state of things is displeasing to any one who is true to his nation and Government. My body and the money we have spent; but we deplore this state of things. But, my brother, you say you know about Zeyn, Gherdilan, and Ajerawiye, two-thirds less one-sixth, but you do not understand about Fao and Sofieh. Of course, if you saw the papers you would understand. And you ask me to tell you what I want, and what I purpose. My purpose is honesty and fairness and peace for the family of Sabah. Primarily, that guilty man Yussuf-e-Ibrahim must be kept away from the Sabah property and from the writer. As regards Sofieh, they have a share in it, and we will give them the whole of it in exchange for their share in the Fao property.

Oh! you seven Arbitrators' if you don't think Sofich is enough, I have land at ~~near~~, which belongs entirely to me. It is better than Fao and more productive, and I want to end the dispute, and I will give them an equivalent in date gardens for their shares of Fao, according to the papers, which will be more productive than Fao, in order that Sabah and Saoud and the people they represent may sever all connection with Fao, for they do not behave as my sons, but as the sons of that guilty man Yussul-el-Ibrahim.

If they have anything to do with Fao, Dora is very near it, and it will only serve to make them more corrupt. We cannot put up with the harm of Dora. They will draw assistance from this source of evil. Be assured, if they have anything to do with Fao, we shall never come to an arrangement.

Don't blame us if we dislike it. May God preserve you.

(Signed) MUBAREK-ES-SABAH

No. 69

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 17.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)

Sir,
WITH reference to my telegram No. 59 of the 17th July, I have received the following information in regard to the Sheikh of Kuwait's dealings with the Aneyza tribe—

Certain Sheikhs of Aneyza, who were expelled by Ibn Rekhd when he occupied the district, took refuge with Mubarek at Kuwait. In the early part of July Mubarek sent an emissary, named Abd-el-Ali, to Aneyza to confer with the notables. He proposed to re-instate their former Sheikhs, and informed them that he would employ force if they resisted. The notables agreed, and Abd-el-Ali then proceeded to Shaggera to see Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud, who has collected a number of the tribesmen round Raud and proposes to attack Boreyda. Ibn Rekhd and Yusuf-el-Ibrahim are said to be at Boreyda, and are constructing a fort. The fort of Sheikhs of Aneyza are leaving Kuwait en route for Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud's headquarters, and will join him in the expedition.

The Amir's force has been much shaken by repeated repulses and unsuccessful forays, and it is not believed that he can offer serious resistance. A convoy of arms dispatched to Yusuf-el-Ibrahim from El Kafe has been intercepted by Mohamed, brother of Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud, at El Sir, some two days' distance from Boreyda. It is said he captured ten loads. In the middle of June the same Mohamed proceeded from Raud to within a day's distance of Boreyda and plundered the Bedouins belonging to Ibn Rekhd.

His Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Mohammerah reports that, according to information he has received, Yusuf-el-Ibrahim lately sent some mounted men to Dora with instructions to Salib-el-Ibrahim, his kinsman, to collect a force. The latter collected 150 men, but their destination is unknown.

I understand that a regular correspondence is kept up between the Nahib's family at Bussorah and Yusuf-el-Ibrahim at Boreyda. The latter is also in communication with Moulah Hamza, the Sheikh of Mohammerah's agent here, and Abdul Wahab-el-Kurtas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. B. CROW.

No. 70.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 161. Secret.)

My Lord,
Therapia, August 10, 1903.
WITH reference to the Secret telegram from the Government of India to Lord George Hamilton of the 8th July last, I beg to say that I entirely disagree with Major Kemball's theory that while affording the Sheikh of Kuwait naval protection as against the Ottoman Government, we are under no obligation to interfere with any aggressive or hostile proceedings which he may take against a tributary of Turkey such as the Emir of Nejd. As a matter of fact the Porte has on more than one

occasion asked that the influence of His Majesty's Government may be used to prevent the Sheikh from marauding or attacking his neighbours. The immunity from Turkish aggression which His Majesty's Government has desired to secure to him seems to me to carry with it the responsibility of preventing him, as far as lies in our power, from undertaking offensive operations against chieftains or tribes assumed to be under the suzerainty of Turkey.

The arguments in favour of the appointment of a Resident at Kuwait are so clearly set forth in the Vicomry's telegram that I feel there is no necessity to make further remarks, except to express the hope that the proposal may be favourably entertained by His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

N. R. O'CONOR

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 17.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Damascus, stating that he has received a request from a Mesopotamian Sheikh for his protection in favour of some merchants from Kuwait who were expected to arrive in Damascus, and some of whom had last year been unjustly imprisoned by the Turkish authorities.

Considering the peculiar position of Kuwait at the present moment, I am in some doubt as to the instructions I should send to Mr. Monahan. It seems to me that it would not be easy to justify the extension of Consular protection to Kuwaitis in favour of the Turkish authorities, and such a course would probably lead to many difficulties, but, on the other hand, I hesitate to meet the application made on behalf of these merchants with too blunt a refusal.

I should therefore be glad if your Lordship would favour me with your instructions on the point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inlosure in No. 71

Acting Consul Monahan to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 62. Confidential.)

Sir,
Damascus, July 22, 1903.
I HAVE the honour to report that a Mesopotamian Sheikh of some importance called on me a few days ago, asking whether I would protect from the hands of his, merchants from Kuwait on the Persian Gulf, who were expected here this year, or some of the same people were unjustly imprisoned by the Turkish authorities in Damascus. I was told that I had received no official instructions to protect any inhabitants of Kuwait. I understand that the Turkish authorities would certainly not admit my right to protect them, and I would respectfully solicit your Excellency's instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 72

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 234. Secret.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, August 20, 1903.
I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 459, Secret, of the 10th instant, advocating the appointment of a British Resident at Kuwait.

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I have already been in communication with the Secretary of State for India in regard to the questions raised in the telegram from the Government of India of the 31st July, to which your Excellency refers, and I transmit for your information copies of the correspondence which has passed on the subject.*

Your Excellency will observe that both Lord G. Hamilton and myself have, after careful consideration, arrived at the conclusion that, notwithstanding the various arguments which have been urged in favour of the proposal to appoint a British officer to reside permanently at Kuwait, such a course would scarcely be in harmony with the assurance which has repeatedly been made by His Majesty's Government that Kuwait is within the Turkish Empire, and could, indeed, hardly be considered otherwise than as a departure from the *status quo*, on the maintenance of which His Majesty's Government have laid so much stress in their previous discussions on the subject.

I concur in your Excellency's opinion that His Majesty's Government may not infrequently find themselves called upon to exercise their influence in restraining the Sheikh from attacking his Arab neighbours, as well as in protecting him from aggression at the hands of the Turkish Government. But that influence has on more than one occasion been exercised under existing conditions, and a perusal of the printed confidential correspondence, during the months of September and October 1901 in particular, shows that the mediation of the Political Resident of British Naval officers in the Persian Gulf was successfully employed at a time of serious inter-tribal disturbance, and that it was received by the Turkish Government with satisfaction.

The conclusion of the hostilities then in progress between the Sheikh of Kuwait and the Amir of Nejd was followed by an amicable understanding with the Turkish Government, recorded in my note to Archibald Pasha of the 11th September, 1901, which has since that date formed the basis of the relations between the two Governments, and the adoption of the present proposal might seriously impair its successful continuance.

His Majesty's Government are therefore of opinion that it will be best, for the present at least, to avoid raising a difficult and inconvenient question with the Turkish Government by appointing a British officer to reside permanently at Kuwait, and that it will be sufficient that an officer should be deputed by the Consul-General at Bushire to visit Kuwait from time to time, remaining there for such time as may be desirable, and, if necessary, repeating his visits at intervals until his residence becomes practically permanent. For the reasons stated in the correspondence inclosed in this despatch they are of opinion that the attention of His Majesty's Consul at Mohammernah will be profitably directed to the very important questions in that locality, and they consider that business connected with the relations of the Sheikh with Turkish officials at Bushire should be conducted as heretofore through His Majesty's Consul at that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWN.

No. 71

Foreign Office to India Office

Foreign Office, August 20, 1901

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, discussing the course which His Majesty's Ambassador at Damascus should be instructed to pursue with regard to an application recently made to him to grant protection to some Arab merchants of Kuwait.

I am to inclose the draft of a despatch which, with Lord G. Hamilton's concurrence, Lord Lansdowne proposes to address to Sir N. O'Conor in reply.

I am, &c.
CHARLES HARDINGE.

No. 71

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in letters from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 16th and 30th July, relative to Kuwait affairs.

India Office, August 20, 1901

Inclosure 1 in No. 71

Captain de Vere Hunt to Government of India.

Bushire, June 19, 1901

IN continuation of this office letter, dated the 29th May, 1901, regarding Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the letter which I have received from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bushire. This office letter, dated the 1st June, quoted by Mr. Crow, gave cover to two letters from Sheikh Mubarak, positively stating that Yusuf had returned to Daura.

Inclosure 2 to No. 71

Consul Crow to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

Bushire, June 8, 1901

WITH reference to your despatch of the 1st June, and the letters from the Sheikh of Kuwait, I have the honour to inform you that he has not been seen at Fao or Zubair, and am quite sure that he has visited neither of those places.

His relative, Saad-el-Ibrahim, returned lately from Mecca, and proceeded from Bushire to Fao in Yusuf's launch a few days ago, and his name may have been confused with that of Yusuf.

It would, perhaps, be advisable to bring the result of my investigation to the knowledge of the Sheikh of Kuwait.

Inclosure 3 in No. 71

Captain de Vere Hunt to Government of India

Bushire, July 2, 1901

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter dated the 19th July 1901, regarding the movements of Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, I have the honour to inform you that I have received authentic information from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammernah that Yusuf arrived at Daura on the 15th June, and remained there for four days, during which he corresponded with certain of his adherents in Kuwait, and left again on the fifth day for Zubair.

Inclosure in No. 7t

Lord G. Hamilton to Government of India

(Telegraphic) P.

August 27, 1903

YOUR telegram of the 31st July regarding Kuwait

On the whole His Majesty's Government consider that proposal to appoint an officer to reside permanently at Kuwait could not but be regarded as to be justified by clear necessity, from the status quo which they have so strongly in their discussions with Turkish Government. Proposal to remove Mohammedan away from his commercial duties in Persia in order to deal with questions of an entirely different class connected with Turk St. Arabia is also one to which His Majesty's Government consider that the existing system, under which the channel of communication with Kuwait is the Resident in Persian Gulf, or Subordinate works well on the whole. It is at present the practice of selected officer until his residence became practically permanent.

No. 7t

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 239)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 29, 1903

I COMMUNICATED to the Secretary of State for India your Excellency's despatch No. 416 of the 31st July, reporting a request of the Sheikh of Kuwait to be allowed to visit his property at Fao during the duration

I transmit, for your information, copies of the correspondence which has passed on the subject.

Your Excellency will observe that His Majesty's Government see no objection to the proposed visit and that the Sheikh has been informed accordingly by the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I am, &c.

LANSDOWNE

No. 7t

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 240)

I HAVE received your despatch No. 416 recently made to the Acting Envoy

Your Excellency will find in the Correspondence correspondence regarding Kuwait, part 2, pp. 56, 57, an account of a similar question which arose in November 1900 in connection with the trial of a native of Kuwait who was suspected of smuggling arms. His Majesty's Consul-General

I do not claim natives of Kuwait as British-protected persons, nor would they be able by British Consular Tribunals in Persia

The same argument would of course be applicable to the present case, and your Excellency should instruct Mr. Mountain to be careful to abstain from giving any guarantee of British protection.

He should, however, assure the local authorities that his good offices would be exercised immediately on behalf of these individuals in the event of their experiencing any unjust treatment at the hands of the Turk St. authorities.

LANSDOWNE

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 3.)

India Office, September 2, 1903

Sir,

I AM directed by Lord George Hamilton to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26th August, inclosing the draft of a despatch which Lord Lansdowne proposes to address to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with regard to an application recently made to His Majesty's Acting Consul at Damascus for the grant of protection to some Arab merchants of Kuwait.

In reply, I am to say that Lord George Hamilton concurs in the terms of the draft despatch, which is herewith returned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE

No. 80.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, September 5.)

(No. 47. Confidential.)

Buxoro, September 11, 1903

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that the Sheikh of Kuwait has sent me a copy of his letter to Haji Mansur, in reply to the latter's proposal mentioned in my despatch No. 37, Confidential, of the 18th July last to your Excellency, in regard to the property settlement.

In this letter Mubarek consents to abandon one-quarter of Fao and one-quarter of Sofien, but, as he reserves the whole of Fao for himself, he will give his nephews the remainder of Sofien, Zeyn, Ajerawine, and Ghuritan as the equivalent of the former, after measurement and valuation. Haji Mansur also proposed that the Sheikh should pay £ T 2,000 as the balance due to the other side on the income from the estates for the past year. In reply to this, Mubarek states that the balance due to them is small, as he has already paid sums on account and settled their father's debts. He says he has paid £ T 3,330 and declines to give them any more. He makes this arrangement conditional on a settlement of all outstanding pecuniary questions between himself and the opposite side, in which he includes Yusuf Ibrahim. These questions refer to (a) his house at Zeyn and its appurtenances, which he values at £ T. 120,000 (£ T. 2,000), and says he built with his own money; (b) the repayment by his nephews of this year's land tax, advanced by him on property assigned to them; (c) deposits and advances with Yusuf Ibrahim in the latter's house of business at Bombay, according to a document drawn up by Yusuf, and to be in the hands of Mubarek's agent here.

On receipt of this letter I communicated with Haji Mansur, and learnt that the opposite party were much pleased at Mubarek's compliance. They asked for my assistance to effect a settlement. I informed Haji Mansur that I was ready to advise Mubarek to accept his offer, and to assist him in settling the pecuniary questions he referred to ought to be considered. I observed that the arrangement depended on a general settlement of accounts, and I thought it unlikely the Sheikh would agree to one without the other. I asked him to come and see me after discussing the matter with the nephews, and to show me his proposals before submitting them to the Sheikh.

Yesterday Haji Mansur brought me his answer to Mubarek, and a document signed by the nephews, embodying their acceptance of the Sheikh's offer of the property, provided it was accompanied by a cash payment of £ T. 2,000 in settlement of just accounts. They agreed to this, reserving only their share of the yearly rental, which they said was £ T. 1,000. This, I am informed, consists of land which they have sold or split up, and the nephews will receive their share of the yearly rental. They raised no objection to repaying their share of this year's taxes on the land they received.

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[Redacted] sur's covering letter to the Sheikh. He stated that the [Redacted] nothing like £ T. 2,000. It was built from the [Redacted] same sum, and was not therefore Mubarek's private property. In his reply Haji Mansur suggested that it should be valued and thrown in with the rest of the property for division. As regards the money deposited in Bombay, he stated that the document referred to by Mubarek afforded no clue, and he himself had no information on the subject. The nephews said they had no interests there, and the matter is presumably [Redacted] transaction between Mubarek and Yusuf Ibrahim, and as such hardly enters into the present controversy. Haji Mansur omitted to refer to it in his reply, and I drew his attention to the omission, observing that Mubarek seemed to attach importance to the point, and made a settlement of [Redacted] his acceptance. As, however, the matter appeared to lie between the Sheikh and [Redacted], I said I was ready to suggest a reference to the Courts in Bombay, where the money was said to be deposited, in case the difference could not be arranged in any other way. Haji Mansur also proposed that any balance due to either side [Redacted] valuation of the properties should be paid in cash. This will obviate [Redacted] the Sheikh's private property at Dousair, in the event of the [Redacted] nephews being less than the equivalent of their share of Fao. If it is more they, on their side, agree to pay the difference.

[Redacted] naming the quantum of the £ T. 2,000 which the nephews claim in settlement of past accounts. Mubarek says the balance due to them is small, as they have already received money on account, and he has paid their father's debts. They, on the other hand, contend that they are entitled to at least that amount, and Haji Mansur supports this view. Without seeing a statement of the account it is impossible to express an opinion, but I am inclined to regard the matter in [Redacted] doubt or a compromise that any stated balance due on adjustment of accounts must be renounced. That some years ago when a settlement was first proposed, Mubarek offered his nephews 25 per cent. of the properties in dispute, which was refused. They now accept 25 per cent only, and I conclude from this, and from what Haji Mansur tells me, that the Sheikh is a considerable gainer by the present arrangement. Under these circumstances, and in view of Mubarek's interests here, it may be worth his while to purchase tranquillity at the price of £ T 2,000. Such an act of generosity on his part would undoubtedly tend to smooth the way, and I have intimated this to him in my letter.

To Haji Mansur asked me to write to the Sheikh I did so, and read over [Redacted] to him, which I have now forwarded to the British Resident at Bushire for transmission. I have the honour to enclose a translation of this letter for your Excellency's information.

I have,
(Signed) P. E. CROW

Incl. sure in No. 80.

Mr. Crow to the Sheikh of Kuwait

(After Compliments.)

Bussorah, August 10, 1903
I HAVE received the copy of your Excellency's letter to Haji Mansur, dated the 21st Moharram (19th July, 1903), and have understood its contents. I am glad your Excellency approves of Haji Mansur's proposal regarding the division of the property. Your nephews will pay their share of this year's taxes on the property assigned to them. With regard to what your Excellency says about your house at Zeyn, that it is your own private property, and that it cost 120,000 krrans, has your Excellency any papers in support of this contention? As regards the deposits your Excellency mentions in Yusuf Ibrahim's house of business at Bombay, this appears to be a question between yourself and him, and it would be better that it should not enter into the present arrangement. If there is a difference on the subject between you, it would be easier and better to settle it through the Courts in Bombay. Your nephews also beg for £ T 2,000 in settlement of past accounts, and I am informed by Haji Mansur that this is just and reasonable. If this question refers to accounts, what is right will appear from an examination of them between you, and I am unable to express an opinion without seeing them. But, as your Excellency says, there is still a sum due to them, you may be disposed to grant

[Redacted]
them what they ask, more especially as they stand in need of your assistance, and your Excellency's generosity is well known. If your Excellency agrees to this it will, I think cause general satisfaction, and will not be unfavourable to your Excellency's interests here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW

No. 81

To the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 28.)

Khartum, September 10, 1903

WITH reference to my despatch No. 546 of the 16th June, and to previous correspondence respecting the arbitration to settle the dispute between the Sheikh of Kuwait and the [Redacted] [Redacted] according to a telegram I have received from the Acting British Consul at Bussorah dated the 12th instant, a settlement of the dispute has been effected by amicable compromise under the supervision of the Consulate.

Mr. Crow adds that both the parties are satisfied, and have signed the agreement
I have, &c.
(Signed) N. B. O'CONNOR

No. 82

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—Received at the Foreign Office, September 30.)

(No. 85.)

Bussorah, August 31, 1903
Sir,
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Excellency's information, the translation of a letter addressed by the [Redacted] of Kuwait to His Majesty's Resident at Bushire, together with that of a telegram sent by Mubarek to the German Viceroy on the 4th July.

I would refer your Excellency to my telegrams No. 41 of the 18th June and No. 57 of the 16th July last.

The Sheikh sent two telegrams to Constantinople respecting his Agent, the first about the 10th June, and the second, of which the enclosed purports to be a copy, on the 18th July.

It is hard to say whether reliance may be placed on the correctness of this copy
I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Incl. sure in No. 82.

Mubarek-el-Sabah to Captain de Vere Hunt.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

14 Jemad-el-Awal, 1321 (August 8, 1903)
I HAVE received your letter, dated the 9th Jemad-el-Awal, 1321 (3rd August last), in which you inform me that I had sent a telegram to Constantinople, and that the Ambassador wished to see a copy of it. As desired by you, I inclose herewith a copy word by word in Arabic.

Last year when I was in Mohammerah, I [Redacted] to inform me of the hardship and oppression to which he was subjected in the prison, and to ask me to represent his case to Constantinople.

I consulted the (British) Consul at Mohammerah, and he replied that he had no code-book to enable him to refer to the Consul at Bushire, and that delay would occur if communication were made by letter, but that if the telegram was not a compromising one, and only related to the state of my protégé, there was no objection to its dispatch. I accordingly sent the telegram from Fao last year. On account of the heat of this summer, and the hardship, &c., which he undergoes in prison, I sent a telegram of

which I inclose a copy. My affairs and my dependents are under the protection of the British Government.

I do not wish to write to Constantinople or Bussorah, because I see that if I do write I draw enmity towards me, but I was obliged to send the telegram on account of the malings of this poor man who is undergoing all these hardships in the prison without any cause, who belongs to a good family, and who is of a weak constitution. At the time of his imprisonment I had written to you, and sent you a copy of the inquiry proceedings.

The Agent whom I had appointed at Fao to live in my house there after the departure of my brother, and who was known to all the Turkish officers, and who had been living there for two or three years, was first imprisoned and then enlisted into the army, and my house remained unoccupied for days before I could appoint another man.

Further, on account of the disreputable shown to my brother Jaber by the Wāli of Bussorah and the Muâir of Fao, I have this year deferred sending him to Fao. I have only four servants, and this year my property remained unoccupied for All these wrongs have no cause or reason which I can communicate to you.

We should remain in ease as we are under your protection, yet things happen to us which are unjust. I have full hopes that you will not be willing to see these things continuing.

You have stated that a copy of the telegram is required for the information of the Ambassador. I request that a copy of this letter, or the original, may also be sent to His Excellency.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82

Mubarak-el-Sabah to the Grand Vizier

(Translation.)

(Telegraph.)

(After compliments.)

8 Ramâzân, 1321 (July 4, 1903).

MY trusty Abdul Aziz Salem, Bedr of Bussorah, and his forefathers have rendered good services and received thanks and commendations. Because he is connected with me, enemies have slandered him and brought false charges against him, which have caused the passing of oppressive orders on him. They have achieved their object. On account of my sincere prayers and my good services for His Holiness (the Sultan), which are known to the Government officers and are officially proved, it is incumbent that my protégé should be treated with kindness in the same way as of others. This is what is hoped for Abdul Aziz, because he is connected with me, is subjected to this treatment, which is opposed to the Royal Grace and the Sovereign's favour which is current among all the people; it is also opposed to your kindness, which is well known, and which is proved to me.

For this reason I have petitioned, and request that you will kindly have the Royal pardon granted to him, because he has done nothing to give cause for the same (the treatment), but is wholly due to the work of enemies.

I request that you will endeavour to bring about the proper cause for his being pardoned.

I remain ever your well-wisher and grateful

No. 82

Mr. Croke to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 30.)

(No. 86. Confidential.)

Sir,

I HAVE received a letter from the Sheikh of Kowit, of which I inclose a translation.

Excellency in my despatch No. 47, Confidential, of the 11th August, Sheikh Mubarak agrees to settle his pecuniary differences with Yousef-el-Ibrahim independently, and, by his adhesion to the draft Agreement of which he sent me a copy, he will pay his nephews 2,600/- in cash in settlement of past accounts, and waive his claim to the house at Kat-el-Zeyn. I think we may regard these as considerable concessions on the Sheikh's part.

The only remaining point is the common property at Kowit. This, according to Mubarak, consists of two houses bequeathed respectively by Jaber and Sabah, the Sheikh's grandfather and father, and now occupied by members of the Sabah family, which they are unwilling to part with or divide, and eighteen shops, twelve of which are houses, and their rental agreed to one-quarter, and the remaining six common property and capable of division. The Sheikh wishes his nephews to sever all connection with Kowit, and proposes, if they attach importance to the six shops, to have them valued and paid over to the Sheikh.

On the arrival of the Arbitrators I will forward to you a copy of the text of the Agreement relative to the property according to the terms of the Sheikh's wishes in the matter, more especially the paragraph relating to the valuation of the Kowit property.

Abdul Wahab renounced his right to the inheritance, and that he had inserted an article in the draft Agreement, leaving the valuation of the Kowit property entirely to the Sheikh's discretion, and that Hajji Mansur had returned the document to Mubarak for signature.

I should have preferred modifying the terms of the Agreement, as the Sheikh asked, instead of merely adding an explanatory note at the end, but the Arbitrators think what has been done will meet the case, and sent on the document without consulting me further in the matter.

I have written the Sheikh a letter, of which I inclose a translation, approving the concessions he has made, and his proposal to sever all future connection between the nephews and Kowit, by indemnifying them in cash for their landed interests there, and expressing my confidence in his sense of justice to deal with the question fairly in his nephews' absence.

I support Mubarak's view in regard to the severance of all future business relations between the nephews' party and Kowit, because I think the complete separation of their differences can be secured in no other way, and such an arrangement will allow no bar any reopening of the present question. If the point remains unsettled, it may lead to Turkish interference with the Sheikh's property at Fao, on the ground that it is being used unfairly at Kowit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. CROKE

Inclosure 1 in No.

Mubarak el-Sabah to Mr. Croke

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

27 Jamâdi'l-Kâbir (August 20, 1903).

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th August. I am sorry to learn that the Sultan has issued an order to arrest Yousef-el-Ibrahim on their side. As regards the money advanced to Yousef-el-Ibrahim in Bombay, and now deposited with his brothers there, for all of which we hold recd pte, the case can be dealt with in Bombay on a general basis. When the affair is finished I will write to the Resident at Bushire about it. I have received a letter from Hajji Mansur Chikhi, the Resident at Kowit, in which he says that the Sultan has issued an order to arrest Yousef-el-Ibrahim on their side. As regards the money advanced to Yousef-el-Ibrahim in Bombay, and now deposited with his brothers there, for all of which we hold recd pte, the case can be dealt with in Bombay on a general basis. When the affair is finished I will write to the Resident at Bushire about it. 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Enclosure 2 in No. 53.

Mr. Crow to Mubarak-el-Sabah.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge to receipt of your Excellency's letter to me of 27th Jemadi-ul-Exvel (the 20th August, 1903), with its inclosures. I have read and understood what you say with pleasure. I note the concessions which your Excellency has made to your nephews, and approve the conciliatory spirit you have displayed.

I am quite of your Excellency's opinion, that the future welfare of your family will be best assured by the severance of all connection between your nephews and Kuwait.

For this reason, I have recommended them to accede to your Excellency's wishes in regard to their interests in the Koweit properties, and to accept their due in money after valuation. The question of valuation has been left to your Excellency's discretion, and I rely on your Excellency's sense of justice to estimate and divide the properties at Koweit fairly in their absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 64

Count Cram to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, October 26.)

(No. 65. Confidential.)

816

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram No. 67 of the 12th instant, informing your Excellency that a settlement of the questions pending between the Sheikh of Koweit and his nephews had been effected by an amicable compromise under the supervision of the Consulate.

I received a letter from Sheikh Mubarak, dated the 6th instant, in reply to mine of the 31st ultimo, a translation of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 56, Confidential, of the 31st ultimo, informing me that he had sealed and returned the Agreement for the division of the property and had indorsed on it the value of the Kowit tenements, leaving his nephews to indicate the amount due to them.

This settles the dispute in regard to all questions pending between the Sheikh of Kuwait and his nephews. I must admit that the value of the Kuwait buildings, as given by Mubarak—700/-—appears to me exceedingly low, but the nephews are not inclined to dispute it, so I have let it pass.

Haji Mansur was away from Bussorah when the letter reached me. I had him recalled and notified the nephews' party of their uncle's final adherence to the Agreement. The nephews, after consulting their advisers, sealed the document with their witnesses, in the presence of my dragoman, who represented me, Haji Mansur, and Abdal Wahab-el-Kirtas, and then proceeded to the Serai to tender their congratulations to the Vally.

I am informed that the Vali will call a meeting of the six Arbitrators and go through the formality of getting them to affix their seals to the deed, in confirmation of the arrangement.

The properties will now be surveyed and valued and a formal deed of transfer executed by the parties before the Sher' authorities. This cannot be done till the date season is over, and may take two or three months.

I have offered the good offices of the Consulate to Haji Mansur and Abdul Wahab-el-Kirtas in the event of any dispute arising in regard to the execution of the settlement.

I inclose a translation of the Agreement as signed by the parties, which Sheikh Mubarak has sent me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. B. CROW.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Agreement respecting the Sheikh of Kuwait and his Neophytes.

(Translation)

(Translation.)
THIS day Sheikh Mubarek-es-Sabah transfers to the sons of his deceased brother, Mohamed Pasha-es-Sabah, namely, to Sabah, in his own right, and as legal trustee for his brothers and his cousins, children of his uncle, the late Jerrah, minors, and as legal representative of the heirs of Mohamed and Jerrah aforesaid and of the heirs of the late Ali-el-Jaber of the Sabah family, and to Saoud, in his own right, all those portions of the estate of the late Mohamed Pasha and Jerrah-es-Sabah, which they bequeathed in their own right, and such as were inherited by them from the late Jaber-es-Sabah, both real and personal property and all and everything described as inheritance as follows:—

The children aforesaid and the persons whom they represent and for whom they are trustees shall receive one whole and undivided fourth part of the date plantations situated in the ward of Fao, depending on Bussorah, together with one of two lots ("hor") situated at Fao aforesaid, and also one-fourth part of the entire date garden of Sofreh. And the children aforesaid shall receive two-thirds entire of the date gardens situated at Gheridlan, and at Zeyn, and at Ajerawiye, less one-sixth which appertains to their grandmother, the mother of the transferor aforesaid, together with 2,000 lira, which their uncle Mubarek Pasha will pay them in cash. But the landed estate at Kowit, shared in common by all the heirs of Jaber-es-Sabah, and that possessed in common and in thirds by Mohamed, Jerrah, and Mubarek, shall remain, as at present, in common, without detriment to the rights of the heirs of Mohammed and Jerrah, and is not included in the present transfer. And as regards the money and debts due, and arms, and horses, and cattle, and ships, the children have no share or part in them whatsoever, and their uncle is fully and completely released from all liability, and claim, and demand as regards them. Then, after conclusion of this Agreement and legal transfer in the manner stated, it is agreed by the two parties to the transfer that Mubarek aforesaid shall give his nephews, in exchange for the fourth part of the Fao date gardens allotted to them, as stated above, three-fourths of the date plantations of Sofreh, and the third portion appertaining to him, together with the sixth portion belonging to his mother and her children Mohamed and Jerrah, of the date gardens at Gheridlan and Ajerawiye and Zeyn, after valuation by experts. And if the value of these properties is less than the fourth part of Fao, Mubarok will pay the difference in cash, and Fao shall hereafter belong to him entirely. But if the values in the said properties shall exceed in value the fourth of Fao, the children shall pay for the surplus in cash, and shall enjoy full possession of the properties aforesaid. After signing these presents the parties shall appear in person or by attorney at the Court of the Sher' at Bussorah and execute and ratify the transfer.

Add.—The valuation of the above-stated landed properties at Koweit shall be at the will of our uncle Mubarak Pasha, and in accordance with his estimate each person interested shall receive his due. This additional clause has been written with the consent of the parties in explanation of the above.

Value of the properties at Kuwait—	Dols.
Our grandfather's house (the late Jaber-as-Sabah), including the reception rooms ..	1,400
Our father, Sa'ibah's house, in which we all live, and to which we have added, including reception rooms ..	4,000
Small house opposite to it ..	200
Eighteen shops ..	1,800
Total ..	7,400

These are all the tenements we hold from the heirs of Jaber and Sabsh. You are aware what is the amount due from these sums to our son Sabah and his brothers, and Saoud and the sons of Jerrah, and the heirs of our uncle the late Ali-el-Jaber.

Inform us, that we may know.

14 Jemadi es Tasi, 132

(Signed) MUBAREK-ES-SABAH.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne. —(Received October 28.)

(No. 674. Secret.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 234, Secret, of the 20th August, respecting the appointment of a British Resident at Koweit.

In view of the desire of His Majesty's Government to avoid raising a difficult and inconvenient question with the Turkish Government by appointing a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit, I think that the necessities of the case will be met by their decision that an officer should be deputed by the Consul-General at Bushire to visit Koweit from time to time remaining there for such time as may be desirable, and, if necessary, repeating his visits at intervals until his residence becomes practically permanent. But I venture at the same time to urge the importance of this understanding being carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, November 3.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 68, Confidential, of the 15th September last, I have the honour to inclose a translation of the clause added at Bussorah to the transfer agreement, referred to in my despatch, and signed by the nephews of Mubarak-es-Sabah, notifying their acceptance of the Agreement and the division of the Koweit properties as valued by their uncle Mubarek.

The Sheikh has already sent 1,000L to Bussorah for his nephews.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Translation of clause added to the transfer Agreement signed by the Nephews of Mubarak-es-Sabah.

Value of the Koweit properties—	French dollars.
1st. Value of our great grandfather's house, Jaber-es-Sabah ..	1,400
Also our late father's house and reception rooms ..	4,000
Also a small house opposite ..	200
Also eight shops ..	1,800
	7,400

This is the correct value of all the tenements belonging to the heirs of the late Jaber and Sabah as stated above. Seven thousand four hundred French dollars. We agree to this valuation and accept that to which we are entitled to only of this amount according to our shares, and there remains to us beyond this no right in or lien on all the Koweit properties. And we have no right of objection in any way whatsoever. In testimony of the above, this 19th day of Jemadi-ul-Akkhir 1321.

(Signed and sealed) SAOUD-BIN-MOHAMED-ES-SABAH
SABAH-BIN-MOHAMED-ES-SABAH.

Witnessed by

ABDUL WAHAB-EL-KERTAS,
ALI MOHAMED-ES-SABAH,
MANSUR-EL-HAJI SULMAN.

This Agreement was executed in the presence of my Dragoman who represented me in accordance with the Embassy's instructions in regard to supervision.

(Signed) F. E. CROW

October 7, 1903.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 16.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 1st October, relative to a raid alleged to have been made by the Sheikh of Koweit upon a section of the Shammar Arabs.

India Office, November 14, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball to Government of India.

Shiraz, September 3, 1903.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a despatch addressed to my First Assistant by His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, relating to a raid alleged to have been made by the Sheikh of Koweit upon a section of the Shammar Arabs.

2. The information received by the Consul appears to be unconfirmed, except from Turkish sources, but it agrees so nearly with that contained in entry No. 19 of the Political Diary of this Residency for the week ending the 12th June, 1903, to which I beg to invite your attention, that it is probable that something of the kind occurred.

3. Sheikh Mubarek, as the Government of India is aware, has on several occasions been warned to abstain from any aggressive action likely to embroil him with the Turkish authorities.

I am again addressing him on the subject, and asking him to give me the true particulars of the affair with the Beni Twals, the presence in whose midst of his malcontent relative Mubarek-el-Athabi seems to me not without significance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

Mr. Crow to Captain Hunt.

Bussorah, August 17, 1903.

Sir,

I HAVE received a despatch, dated the 13th July, from His Majesty's Ambassador, in which his Excellency draws attention to the alleged raid by the Sheikh of Koweit against the Beni Twals of the Shammar Arabs in May last.

According to information received here, and which the Vally confirmed, Mubarek attacked the Beni Twals and captured 800 (*mc*) camels from them at Khamsiya, near Ghabishiye, some ten hours from Zobeir, in a south-west direction. His malcontent relative, Mubarek-el-Athabi of Zobeir, who accompanied the Beni Twals, escaped. When Mr. Lyle visited Koweit in June, I asked him to try and ascertain what had occurred. Mr. Lyle reported to me that he could obtain no accurate information in regard to the raid, but that a large number of camels and cattle had recently been brought into Koweit, and, from what he had observed, he had little doubt that something of the sort had taken place.

His Majesty's Ambassador desires me to bring the reported raid to your notice, as it is evident that while forbidding the Turks to attack or molest Mubarek, we are under the obligation to see that he does not wilfully provoke aggression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 762.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 112 of the 18th July last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, reporting the movements of the Amir of Nejd towards Koweit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 72.)

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 59 of the 17th July last, I am informed that Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud has left Riad for Shakra, and that the ex-Sheikh of Kassim are ready to leave Koweit to join him. The Amir is reported to be near Zulfe, a distance of two days to the north-east of Shakra.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 89.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 773.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 752 of the 11th instant, reporting disturbances in the Vilayet of Bussorah, I have the honour to state that, according to a telegram just received from Mr. Acting Consul Crow, the Vail with three battalions of troops attacked the Montekik Arabs and defeated Sadun who took to flight.

The authorities have requested the Sheikh of Koweit not to shelter the fugitive. The Sheikh is said to be raiding Shammar.

It is, I venture to think, most desirable that the Viceroy, whom he goes to Koweit, should make the Sheikh understand the difficulty of effectually protecting him if he allows his allies to join in attacks upon neighbouring Chieftains, or still more if he takes part in such expeditions himself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

No. 90.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, November 25, 1903.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* communicating rumours as to aggressive action by the Sheikh of Koweit, and suggesting that the Viceroy of India should, when he visits Koweit, point out to the Sheikh the difficulty of effectually protecting him if he countenances or joins in attacks upon neighbouring tribes.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in this recommendation, and I am to suggest that it should be communicated to his Excellency by telegraph if Mr. Secretary Brodrick sees no objection.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* No. 82.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 25th November, relative to reported aggressive action by the Sheikh of Koweit.

India Office, November 28, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, November 28, 1903.

IN view of the rumours as to the aggressive action on the part of the Koweit Sheikh, a suggestion has been made by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that you should warn the Sheikh that, if he participates in or countenances any attacks upon the tribes in his vicinity, it will be difficult to protect him effectually. I shall be glad if you will make a representation to the Sheikh in the sense suggested, which meets with the concurrence of Lord Lansdowne. Reference is invited to the letter of the 3rd September from Colonel Kemball, which formed inclosure of letter of the 1st October from the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

No. 92.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 826.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 773 of the 18th ultimo and 810 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah concerning the recent disturbances among the Montekik Arabs.

Mr. Crow also informs me, with regard to the attack reported to have been made recently on the Shammar Arabs by the Sheikh of Koweit, that he learns that the latter attacked and plundered the Arabs in question at Jileyda, a place lying three days from Koweit on the road to Nejd.

Mr. Crow adds that he has communicated this information to the British Resident at Bushire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 78.)

Sir,

Bussorah, November 16, 1903.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 75, as to trouble with the Montekik Arabs, I learn that Sadun Pasha has returned to his property at Sakharieh, a place near the Euphrates between Nassirieh and Kamisieh, and has telegraphed to Constantinople, throwing all blame on a certain Kol-Aghassi, killed in the action with Turkish troops, reported in my telegram No. 89 of the 6th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 93.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 836.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 21, 1903.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 826 of the 15th instant, respecting the recent disturbances among the Montefik tribes, I have the honour to report that having heard from the Sublime Port that trouble was still being given by Sadun Pasha's party, I inquired as to the facts of His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, who informs me by telegraph that Sadun Pasha is near Koweit, and that General Muhammad Pasha Daghestani, with 1,200 troops from Bagdad, is at Zobeir awaiting instructions from Constantinople.

The local authorities are inclined to attribute the agitation to the intrigues of the Sheikh of Koweit, but this is unlikely, as Sadun and the Sheikh are not on friendly terms at present.

Mr. Crow adds that the Arabs of El Hassa are reported to have risen, but that he has no details.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Filmed Completely
For P. & O.
FILED 1. DECEMBER,